

**Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on**  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7pm at Allendale Village Hall**

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

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Henderson, Howard, Simmonds, Swaile and White  
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**

**22/02172/VARYCO – River View Lodge The Peth**

The Council unanimously agreed it had **no objections** to the application

**22/01452/FUL - St Cuthbert's Church Market Place Allendale**

Cllr Stevenson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Kirk seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/01682/CCD - Allendale Primary School**

Cllr Stevenson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Beck seconding this, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**22/02111/FUL - High Acton Farm Allendale**

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

**22/01888/LBC - Old Post Office, Sparty Lea**

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

**4) Public participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Cllr Graham agreed, and Cllr Philipson seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record with one amendment that was to include, under Correspondence, an action to help Trevor Newman resolve the misunderstanding that he was having with NCC to help progress his planning application (that the Clerk had inadvertently missed out from the minutes).

**6) Matters Arising**

There were none.

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

Co Cllr Colin Horncastle had previously sent his apologies to the meeting, together with an update on the following:

### **Affordable housing**

Co Cllr Horncastle recommended that the Allendale Parish Council ask to be part of the community led pilot housing scheme by registering its interest with Rob Murfin and the Council unanimously agreed to this.

### **Bus shelter for Catton**

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that he wanted the Council to press ahead with its plans to install a bus shelter in Catton and that he would meet the costs as previously agreed. The Towns & Villages Committee agreed to hold a consultation with Catton residents to discuss a suitable design.

### **Bus shelter for Allendale**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he would meet the costs of installing a bus shelter in Allendale on the main through road if Allendale Parish Council and Go-Ahead Buses decided to relocate the bus stop away from the Market Square.

### **Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme 2023/2024**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he supported the proposal by David Stone to **reduce the speed limit to 20 mph through Ropehaugh to Allenheads** (see Correspondence below), in view of the lack of footpaths and street lighting, and the Council agreed it should be one of its three priorities for the forthcoming year. The Council also agreed that the other two priorities should be **road signage (and chevrons) improvements on the road down from Rookhope** and **reducing the speed limit to 30 mph along Station Road**.

### **Speed limit sign**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the Council should arrange to install a speed limit sign on the approach to Allendale from the Cemetery road that was having a detrimental impact on Trevor Newman's planning application.

## **8) Allotments Committee**

### **Allotments tenancy agreement**

Cllr Coulson to meet with Cllr Henderson on site to review the extent of Cllr Henderson's allotment before the new tenancy agreements were issued.

## **9) Cemetery Committee**

The Council exceptionally agreed to a recent request to install a second headstone on an existing plot in memory of a family member provided that the new memorial was a flat one and that the family placed it flush with the existing one so as not to obstruct the grass cutting. The Clerk said that she would revise the existing Cemetery regulations to make clear what Allendale Parish Council permits and does not permit in the Cemetery and publish these on the website.

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

There were no actions.

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

### **New waste bin at Portgate Road end**

Cllr Graham had met with Christine Sherwood and agreed a site and design for the proposed new waste bin at Portgate Road end. The Clerk to get agreement from Neighbourhood Services to empty the new bin in advance of her ordering it and having it installed and before asking if Malcolm Aitchison if he was free to do the installation.

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

The Towns & Villages Committee agreed to inspect then recommend a) a suitable replacement surface for the area under the swing at Allenfields, and b) how best to re-instate the steps up to the play frame at Denefields that were showing signs of deterioration.

### **Village tidying works**

Cllr Graham to check if Malcolm Aitchison was available for the usual village tidying works including the edging work in the grassy areas of the Village. The Council agreed to ask Hilton Graham if he was not. Cllr Coulson said that it would be best if Malcolm made the edging to the footpath from the Library to the Store Bank shallower to avoid ankle injuries.

### **Village tree works**

Cllr Beck asked whether the Village Hall had consulted the Parish Council about the felling of the Horse Chestnut tree near the entrance to the Village Hall by contractors that were conducting drainage works in the Recreation Ground. She asked whether the Parish Council had a policy of using arborists for tree surveys and followed a tendering process for remedial work, and the Clerk reassured Linda that this was the case. Cllr Kirk said that the tree was the responsibility of the Village Hall and that the contractors had felled the tree as it was dying and presented a danger. Cllr Beck asked about crack willow trees that a parishioner considered were a potential risk and Cllr Graham said that he believed the trees were in Deneholme Wood and that Cllr Beck should raise the matter with representatives of the Fawside Foundation.

Cllr Graham to ask George Armstrong to cut back the lower growth on the Lime trees lining the main road (B6303) to make it easier for pedestrians using the footpath.

### **Stakeholder Meeting to discuss and resolve the parking concerns in Allendale Market Place**

Cllr Graham said that fifteen people had attended the stakeholder meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June and that they had mostly welcomed the proposals to: a) move the bus stop to the main through road away from the Market Square, and b) mark out parking bays in the Village to improve road safety and access to the shops and businesses. He would be fixing a date to meet with representatives of Go-Ahead Buses to work out the most suitable site for the bus stop and inviting local people to put forward their ideas on a suitable design for the parking bays. Cllrs Graham and Stevenson said that they had received helpful feedback from the those attending, and Cllr Philipson thanked the Towns & Villages Committee for the progress they had made and their ongoing work.

## **12) Correspondence**

**Helen Elliott** – The Council to discuss the need for an environmental sustainability policy at its meeting in September.

**Dr Peter Howarth** – The Council agreed that the Clerk should write to Northumberland County Council and lobby for a 100% discount on the Council tax on behalf of the Ukrainian family that has moved to the Village.

**Dr Peter Howarth** – The Council agreed for the Clerk to write to Go-Ahead Buses to try and get the Allenheads-Hexham 688 service to reinstate its stop on Haugh Lane (Aldi) that Go-Ahead buses had recently removed from its schedule.

**David Stone** – The Council agreed that 20 mph limits through Ropehaugh to Allenheads in view of the lack of footpaths and street lighting and include it in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme for 2023/2024.

## **13) Finance Committee**

### **Parish Council accounting system**

Cllr Kirk said that he had been looking at options for keeping parish council accounts to provide clearer record keeping and reporting, improved business continuity and reducing the Clerk's workload. He said that the next step would be arrange online demonstrations of his shortlisted subscription-based accounting system packages for ease of use and other features. Cllr Kirk said that he had put forward his ideas to the Finance Committee that would make a recommendation after it had weighed up all the options.

### **Accounts for payment**

Cllr Kirk proposed that the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Villiers-Stuart.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **29 June 2022 - £ 49,102.46**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 June 2022 - £ 16,439.11**

**14) Matters for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 agenda**

Environmental sustainability policy

Grant applications

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

There was one.

**16) Date of next Parish Council**

The Annual Parish meeting and next Parish Council meeting would take place on **1<sup>st</sup> September 2022** at 7pm.

[The meeting ended at 21:21](#)