

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council  
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

**Present:** Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Galley, Hill, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison, Simmonds and White  
H Newsome (Clerk)

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Baxter, Dunn, Henderson and Howard  
Co Councillor Colin Horncastle

**2) Planning Sub-Committee**

**Planning applications**

**19/04423/LBC – Osborne House, Allendale** Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Philipson seconding it, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**19/04776/FUL – Staward Villa Farm, Colliery Lane, Catton** – Cllr Philipson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Quinn seconding it, as it is in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings (all bullet points apply), and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**Hearing at the Tynedale Local Area (Planning) Committee** to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm, Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham, NE46 3NH.

**19/01949/FUL - Land North West Of Leawater, Allendale**

**Decision notices**

**19/02202/FUL – Holmwood, Shilburn Road, Allendale – GRANTED**

**19/03714/FUL – Parlour Close, Sinderhope – GRANTED**

**19/01950/FUL – Land East Of South View, Thornley Gate, Allendale – GRANTED**

**19/04409/FUL – Tedham Barn, Allendale – GRANTED**

**19/03840/FUL – Land North Of Black Bank House, Black Way, Allendale – GRANTED**

**3) Declarations of Interest**

There were no changes, see APC's website for full list:

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents>

**4) Public participation**

There was one member of the public in attendance. Bill Edgar, Reporter from the Hexham Courant was also present for the meeting.

**5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Cllr Crellin proposed, and Cllr Quinn seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

**6) Matters Arising**

**Allen House**

The Council discussed the status of the property boundary and acknowledged that the area was both privately owned and Village Green, and that there was no need to make further enquiries to the Land Registry.

**Allenfields Play Area**

The Council remained concerned that the kind of surface planned for the play area was appropriate on the grounds of health and safety and would seek advice. Cllr Philipson advised that the field be properly

drained before any further work to the playground is carried out. Cllr Philipson to discuss with Co Cllr Horncastle new drainage to the grassed area prior to seeking quotes, if necessary, and arrange a familiarisation visit.

#### **Batey Terrace, Catton**

The Clerk to arrange with Neil Snowdon (NCC), a date when he could visit the site, along with representatives of the Parish Council. Mr Snowdon to also review the parking arrangements on the main road where residents are parking on both sides of the road where it bends, creating a hazard for drivers in both directions.

#### **Horse chestnut trees, Recreation Ground**

The Council agreed that two horse chestnut trees in poor condition in the Recreation Ground opposite the school be removed for reasons of safety. The Council agreed to accept Matty Robson's estimate for carrying out the work that would involve closing the road while the trees are felled. The Clerk to post information on social media shortly before the work was done. Cllr Crellin said that the Council should still discuss how best to manage tree surveying and tree surgery in the Parish.

#### **Litter picker contract**

The Clerk said that David Rosbotham of Natural Ability's Handy Persons Service had accepted the Council's offer of a one-year litter picking contract and that he proposed to start on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Clerk to complete the paperwork and Cllr Baxter to provide the briefing.

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

Co Cllr Horncastle had sent his apologies to the meeting as he was attending the Hexhamshire Parish Council meeting.

### **8) Precept 2020/2021**

The Finance Sub-Committee had met on 11<sup>th</sup> December and produced a budget for financial year 2020/2021. It recommended that the precept be set at £43,650, a 9% increase that is likely to mean an increase of approximately £3.70 per household or under £2 per person.

Cllr Galley proposed that the precept be accepted, and Cllr Lee seconded this.

### **9) Planning applications – protocol around site visits**

The Chair had taken advice on the circumstances in which Parish Councillors make visits to sites within the parish following a planning application. He said that Stephen Rickitt, the Chair of Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC), had confirmed that whilst NCC and other planning authorities needed to have a very formalised system for site visits to avoid challenges on procedural grounds, having parish council site visits would run the risk of confusion and he recommended against a formal system. Co Cllr Horncastle had previously warned Allendale Parish Council of the need to be impartial as a statutory consultee, and that parish councils had to be exceptionally careful about raising false expectations and cautioned against site visits. Some Councillors said that a 'site familiarisation' visit would be helpful in providing context but acknowledged Mr Rickitt's comment on potential problems with trespass issues accessing the land. The Chair said that Councillors should think very carefully before visiting a site, and warned against getting into discussion and raising the hopes of applicants. Cllr Galley reminded the Council that as a statutory consultee, its planning recommendations should be made in accordance with policies as set out in the Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP).

### **10) Allendale Market Square**

#### **Camper vans**

In response to a query concerning a parked camper van on the Village Green being seen to be occupied for overnight accommodation, Cllr Galley said that it was not the responsibility of the Parish Council to monitor vehicles parked on the Village Green or on the highway provided that they are taxed and road worthy. The Parish Council would continue to report abandoned vehicles that are either not roadworthy or registered as off the road (SORN).

## **Drop kerbs**

The Clerk to remind Neil Snowdon of earlier plans made to install drop kerbs in the Market Place including access to the Co-op (the Golden Lion end). Cllr Lee said that he had observed a local wheelchair user using the new crossing and then travelling up store bank through the Market Place in order to access the Post Office.

## **Hearse House**

The Council agreed to lock up the Hearse House to prevent the anti-social behaviour taking place in and around it. Cllr Galley to check that Melvin Robinson continues to be able to access the mower in the event of locks being changed.

## **Isaac's Well**

Cllr Lee updated the Council on the Awards for All application to secure funds for creating a social gathering point at Isaac's Well. He said that the lottery funding would pay for the interpretation and street furniture but other sources of funding would need to be found to pay for the paved area and cobble work that a local contractor had estimated at around £10k.

## **11) Climate Action Allendale**

Cllr Hill had shared his Climate Change Up-date paper prior to the meeting. He reported on a VONNE (Voluntary Organisation Network North East) meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to discuss VONNE's bid to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund. VONNE's objective is to support around ten place-based community groups with a focus of lowering greenhouse gas emissions: a response to the bid is expected shortly. Cllr Hill also said that he had met with representatives of Tyne Valleys River Trust, Sustainable Allendale, Plugging the Gaps and Transition Tynedale on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and that many issues were raised. These included the importance of coordination between areas to avoid duplication of effort and how project ideas can be collated, measured and ranked.

## **12) Correspondence**

**David Banks, Secretary of Northern Counties Allotments Association (NCAA)** – The Council agreed to assist with the NCAA's project to map all the allotment sites, both public and private in the North of England. Cllr Crellin to complete the allotment map on behalf of the parish's public allotments, and the Clerk would use social media to help find private sites in the area.

**Iain Hedley, Community Regeneration Officer, Northumberland County Council** – Cllr Simmonds had met Alison Peadon, Library Service Manager, NCC at the drop in for the public consultation of libraries at Allendale Library earlier in the day. The Clerk was asked to take up Ms Peadon's offer to come to the next Parish Council meeting or arrange another time for further discussion on possible options for future library services in the parish.

**Lesley Campbell, Catton resident** – The Council discussed Ms Campbell's concerns to protect the sensitive aesthetics of Catton village, but as the solar panels had been installed on a building that was not listed in an area that does not have conservation protection there was nothing it could do about it.

## **13) Accounts for payment**

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - £38,329.49**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - £ 5233.59**

## **14) Matters for February 2020 agenda**

Fly tipping

Grant applications

Looking ahead – creating an annual plan (to include Local Transport Planning)

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

The Council agreed a payment to be made to the Clerk for additional work carried out in FY 2019/2020 related to administration of the cemetery.

**16) Date of next Parish Council meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **6<sup>th</sup> February 2020** at St Cuthbert's Church Hall at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9:40 pm.