

**Minutes of the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council held on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 7.30 in Ninebanks Church Hall**

**Present:** Steve Agar, Jennifer Brown Alan Greaves, Colin Horncastle, John Martin, Ian Reed and the Clerk to the West Allen Parish Council Barbara Ingman.

**1 Matters arising from previous meeting – none**

**2 Correspondence:**

(i) An email from Historic England about a War memorial to Private Fairless in Limestone Brae burial ground, West Allen, stated that the war memorial was being considered as a site of special architectural or historic interest and that the Burial Ground belonged to the Parish Council. It was pointed out that the Burial Ground belongs to the Church who maintain the grounds and Historic England would be informed.

(ii) Emails from Alwyn Woodcock, Carrshield re ongoing work at Barney Craig and a request for speed reduction in Carrshield:

Colin Horncastle is trying to arrange for the Highways Department to install speed monitoring equipment in Carrshield but this may take some time as the equipment is in short supply. Questions were asked about the criteria for implementing a reduced speed limit when the volume of traffic on a road is low. Whitfield have speed reductions signs so it should be possible for Carrshield to have them.

Barneycraig. The Environmental Agency have announced that work needs doing at Barney Craig to repair the tailings wall to prevent the pollution of the West Allen river. Concern about the proposed filtration scheme was noted but once a proper plan is available the Parish Council will look at this closely. Colin Horncastle offered to visit Alwyn Woodcock to discuss. Barbara will email Alwyn to keep her informed.

(iii) Notice Board will be updated with a poster about domestic abuse from Northumbria Police and information about Tynedale Community Bank.

**3 Requests for Donations - it was agreed to make the following donations:**

Great North Ambulance –£300

Natural Ability - £100

**4 Precept Application – form signed requesting £800. We will review amount we request next year.**

**5 Transparency**

As previously notified a grant of £1590.79 was awarded for the purchase of IT equipment. Barbara and Steve Agar are attending a meeting, provided by NALC, on Transparency on Monday 5 December and expect to find out the regulations relating to spending the grant.

*The purpose of the meeting is to provide help and guidance for Parish Councils regarding the*

*Transparency Regulations and Fund, and in particular to:*

*Promote understanding of the 'transparency regulations'*

*Clarify post-2017 external audit arrangements*

*Show how transparency arrangements can help Councils provide information to parishioners and deal with questions, including those made as Freedom of Information requests.*

*Clarify the workings and criteria of the DCLG Transparency Fund:*

**6. Planning – no applications received**

**7. Any other Business**

John Martin reported that work is due to start on the Middle road where the landslide happened in December 2015. The plan is to move the road further back and build up the side where the land slide occurred.

Colin Horncastle said he had complaints from Mohope about drainage problems and has arranged for this to be corrected.

Road to Hawksteel was supposed to be repaired by Autumn 2016. The road was closed in the summer to install test bore holes to see what was underneath but nothing has happened since. The drains on Leadgate Bank are still blocked near Dryburn Chapel and Colin was asked to look into this problem. There is a drain under the road which comes up under the surface. Colin Horncastle also agreed to try and arranged for grit piles to be delivered.

**8. Dates and times of next meetings – Thursday 2 March, 2017, Thursday 1 June 2017, Thursday 7 September 2017**