

**Allendale Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 6 February at 7pm
at St Cuthbert's Church Hall**

Present: Cllrs Gray, Armstrong, Kirk, Swaile (Chair), Bron, Philipson, Simmonds, Johnson, Charlton, Co Cllr Horncastle, K Naylor (Clerk)

1 Welcome and councillor news

The Chair welcomed Mandy Charlton to the Council.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Beck, White and Coulson.

3 Declarations of interest

No new interests were declared. A full list of interests is at

[https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents?search=interest&type=All&year\[value\]\[year\]=](https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents?search=interest&type=All&year[value][year]=)

4 Planning applications

25/00077/FUL Installation of internal wall and loft insulation at 2 Burnlaw Whitfield NE47 8HF

Cllr Kirk proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Johnson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

25/00078/LBC Listed building consent for internal wall and loft insulation at 2 Burnlaw Whitfield NE47 8HF

Cllr Kirk proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Johnson seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

25/00298/VARYCO Variation of Condition 3 (Windows) on approved application 18/00467/VARYCO in order to allow UPVC windows instead of Timber at Dene View Catton NE47 9QS

It was noted that the property was not in a conservation area and that there were advantages of UPVC in terms of better insulation.

Cllr Philipson proposed the motion to support the application, Cllr Gray seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

25/00332/REM Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on approved application 21/00209/OUT for 2no. dwellings at Land East Of Catton Lane Foot Methodist Church Allen View Catton.

It was noted that there was not much detail in the plans as to the build-materials or appearance.

Cllr Kirk proposed the motion no objection, with the caveat that this is on the assumption that the build is of local stone and welsh slate, Cllr Swaile seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

25/00374/VARYCO Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 22/02713/FUL in order to create a larger kitchen area at Greenside Allenheads NE47 9JL

It was noted that this is a small extension to the original plan. It is visible to the road because of the orientation of the building.

Cllr Philipson proposed the motion no objection, Cllr Kirk seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

5 Public participation

There was one member of the public in attendance. Mr Foster expressed concern about the potential loss of grave space in the cemetery if large number of trees were planted. Cllr Swaile noted that tree planting is to be associated with the woodland burial area and that burials will be among any trees that may be planted. Cllr Philipson noted that the sloped area is being used for ashes. It was also suggested to have a second green wheelie bin (alternating with the existing bin for collection purposes – with no change to the number of collections) as the existing wire bins are unsightly and difficult to move. Such a bin could be

camouflaged behind covers and Mr Foster volunteered to see to the bin being screened. Cllr Bron to contact Adam Keen at NCC re purchase of the new green wheelie bin.

6 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2025

The minutes were approved. It was noted that the minutes recorded that Station Road had been included in the traffic plan, which reflects the discussion at the meeting. However, in fact, only the three Catton-related priorities had been submitted in the plan because Cllr Horncastle was at the time already dealing with the Station Road proposals. This has been clarified in minute item 8.

It was noted that, as well as the three traffic priorities, the potential double white lines at Station Road had been emailed by the former Clerk to Cllr Horncastle in September.

7 Matters arising

Housing needs survey funding application – Cllr Swaile reported that there had been a meeting with NCC representatives to discuss potential sites for affordable housing. A grant was available to pay for a housing needs survey (this would be for response by local people desiring affordable housing, including people who had moved away into neighbouring areas). A housing needs assessment had been done previously but that is a higher level survey relating to need in more general terms. A grant application to fund such a housing survey has been submitted and might be decided on soon. It is not clear if we could re-apply in the next financial year if unsuccessful.

8 County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Co Cllr Horncastle provided the following update.

Allenheads

The public toilets are due for improvement, hopefully in the next financial year, and the septic tank will be looked at. Also being looked at is an electric car charger that can also charge bikes.

Station Road

As reported in the last meeting, there would be no rubber cushions but an improved scheme of markings. This is to include buff markings at intervals along the road which have the appearance of speed bumps. This scheme will be implemented as soon as the weather permits.

Parked caravan

Cllr Horncastle noted that he had received some complaints about a caravan parked near the telephone box. Cllr Kirk noted that the enforcement officer had already been in touch with the parish council about this. It was believed that the caravan was unoccupied and that the owner was a local resident.

County

NCC is working hard to work with recent budget changes and hopes not to cut frontline services or impose parking charges in small towns etc. NCC are also looking at ways to assist with the increased NI bill in the care sector. The government had proposed changes to the way greenbelt is assessed for planning purposes and NCC are working on a local plan to address this.

9 Council General

Councillor vacancy (until filled) – one councillor vacancy is available for co-option

Gov.uk conversion - Cllr Johnson had circulated a report on this and was looking into costing and evaluating suppliers

Feedback from Haydon Bridge and Allendale Health Centre Patient Participation Group - Cllr Johnson had attended the meeting on 15 January 2025 and circulated the minutes. He will attend the next meeting on 9 April 2025. It was noted that the practice are happy for the parish council to send a representative as long as they are also patient of the practice (which Cllr Johnson is). It was noted that a consultation on the NHS 10 year health plan intended to involve the group, however the deadline was too tight for response.

10 Allotments

Cllr Kirk noted that the allotment price increase had not been communicated to allotment holders and payments had been made for this year at the rate of £5 pa. In view of this, the allotment price increase is to

be held over till next year (£25pa) Clerk to liaise with Cllr Coulson re informing the allotment holders of the rise for 2025/26.

11 **Cemetery**

Cemetery shed repointing quotes – details were discussed in the closed part of the meeting.

Two quotes had been obtained on request for repointing the cemetery shed (Quote A -- £1970; Quote B -- £2130). An additional last minute quote had been received. However, as there was a variation in the details of the work to be undertaken compared to the other two quotes, there was not time to evaluate this at this time. The other contractors had been waiting for a response and it was desired not to delay this further. The two quotes were finely balanced and it was decided to go with Patrick Thompson's quote for £1970. Proposed Cllr Kirk. Second Cllr Swaile. Agreed.

12 **Rights of Way & Access**

Water damage to footpath 141 – this had been reported to NCC via Cllr Beck and Duncan Lovatt of NCC.

13 **Environment & Climate Change**

Plants and Planters – the future plan of the works at Isaac's Well being undertaken by the Allen Valley's Local History Group was as yet unclear and the outcome of their funding application had not yet been determined. A memorial bench is also going to be installed at Isaac's Well and the site for bench needs looking at in terms of a stable substrate for the bolts and the slope. Cllr Bron reported the cost of barrel planters is £29.99 each, from Down to Earth. Cllr Gray has top soil for them at his home.

Cllr Kirk proposed buying four planters (two for the Well and two for outside the pharmacy). Cllr Gray seconded. Agreed.

An update from the history group funding application is needed.

14 **Towns and Villages**

Bus shelter update - Cllr Kirk reported that there was no news from the Planning Inspectorate. Cllr Kirk noted that we should put the specification documents on the website together with an update on the process.

Grass mowing contract quotes – details were discussed in closed section of the meeting

There had been 13 expressions of interest, 8 site visits conducted by Cllr Gray, leading to 7 bids (Quote A: £50,000; Quote B £32,000; Quote C £21840-26208; Quote D £17,550; Quote E 11,500; Quote F £8580-12285; Quote G £21780). Of the two most financially competitive bids (Bids E and F) it was decided, on the basis of experience, price and having an established business, to offer the contract to MasterPlan for £11,500 as a fixed price quote.

Proposed Cllr Johnson Second Philipson. Agreed.

15 **Correspondence**

Correspondence received was noted.

Mayfair committee – Cllr Kirk noted that there was no need to request permission from the Parish Council as the Village Green Bye-laws permit the holding of a Mayfair. However, the parish council was grateful for the courtesy and approves.

Lichfields re 24/03223/FUL – a closed meeting would not be appropriate. Clerk to invite them to the next parish council meeting letting them know that it is a public meeting and that this would be an agenda item.

Mr Graham – there had, at one time, been a plan to include a solar powered light inside the bus shelter. Cllr Kirk to contact Jonah Maurice to see if that was part of the design he was currently working to.

Ms Robinson (B4RN) – Cllr Kirk noted that trenches across a Village Green usually require permission of the Planning Inspectorate but there is an exemption for telecoms operators laying cables. Clerk to write to say that the parish council recognises that you can go ahead with this work, and that we assume that the green will be properly reinstated.

NCC Open Spaces Survey – this survey could impact on future planning policy, Cllrs Gray and Swaile, on behalf of Villages and Environment & Climate Change sub-committees to look at the survey and reply if needed. Response due 5pm 14 March 2025.

Tynedale Local Area Committee re the draft Local Transport Plan Programme 2025-2026
Cllr Horncastle to look at the transport plan re our earlier proposals.

16 **Finance**

The listed payments were approved.
Proposed Cllr Kirk; Seconded Cllr Johnson. Agreed.
Immediate payment of the Rickerby's bill for the servicing of the mowers was approved once it arrives.
Proposed Cllr Kirk; Seconded Cllr Johnson. Agreed.

Community account balance as of 31 January 2025: £6877.30

Commercial Instant Access Account as of 31 January 2025: £19980.62

Public Sector Deposit Fund of CCL balance as of 31 January 2025: £45000

Small grant applications

Small grant applications had been received from nine organisations and it was unanimously agreed to grant the awards listed in the table below. It was decided not to award a grant to Carers Northumberland and WAG and Co, as there were only limited funds available and there were applications from other organisations with greater impact in the local community.

Group	Grant
Allendale Mayfair Committee	£500
Allendale Youth Ambition	£100
Catton Village Hall	£500
Allendale Cricket Club	£400
Allen Valleys Local History Group	£100
Tynedale Hospice at Home	£100
Allen Valleys Red Squirrels	£500

17 **Matters for 6 March 2025 Agenda**

18 **Confidential item(s)**

There were two items.

19 **Date of next Parish Council Meeting**

7pm on 6 March 2025 at Allendale Village Hall

The meeting ended at 10pm

Signed:

On: