

Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st August 2024 at 7pm at Allendale Village Hall

Present: Cllr Swaile (Chair), Bron, Coulson, Gray, Johnson, Kirk, Philipson, Simmonds, White and Co Cllr Colin Horncastle and H Newsome (Clerk).

1) Apologies for absence and councillor news

Apologies were received from Cllr Beck.

The Council agreed for the Clerk to advertise the three councillor vacancies if there was no request for an election. The Clerk would put a schedule together and advertise the vacancies and recruitment process as soon as possible so that the Council could fill the vacancies by co-option.

2) Declarations of interest

See APC's website for a full list: <https://bit.ly/4cWwHHv>

3) Planning Committee – planning applications

24/02367/LBC - Sinderhope Shield Sinderhope

Cllr Philipson declared an interest. Cllr Kirk proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

24/02460/LBC - Westside Farm Common Bank Whitfield

Cllr Simmonds proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Kirk seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

24/02512/FUL - The Throstle Sinderhope

Cllr Swaile declared an interest. Cllr Kirk proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr White seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

24/02511/VARYCO - Lonkley Head Farm Lonkley Head Allendale

Vary Condition 2 (approved plans) and Remove Condition 6 (timber windows and doors)

Cllr Kirk proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Philipson seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

4) Public participation

There were **three** members of the public in attendance.

Reduction of speed limit along Station Road

Residents of Station Road informed the Council that some drivers continued to use the road as a race track at weekends and the speed of drivers appeared to be up to 60 mph. They said that they represented many Station Road residents who feel strongly that the traffic is too fast for comfort for children, walkers, and cyclists, and they insisted that more mitigation should be put in place. Co Cllr Horncastle said that he and Cllr Johnson had met the Highways officer, Neil Snowdon on 19th July who had agreed that the measures in place were inadequate and that he would draw up draft plans for more signage for the new speed restrictions as well as plans for installing two speed cushions sited 1/3 and 2/3 along Station Road. Co Horncastle said that any new measures would need to be paid from his own (county council) budget, but the residents said that Northumberland County Council should meet these costs as it was in breach of its legal obligation to protect people by not providing them. Co Horncastle would share Neil's plans with the parish council as soon as he got them.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 1st August 2024

Cllr Kirk agreed, and Cllr Philipson seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Allendale school crossing

When Cllrs Horncastle and Johnson met Neil Snowdon on 19th July Neil had agreed to share the results from recent traffic monitoring when it was available. The data would be used to determine whether the location qualified for a crossing or speed cushion south of the school entrance.

Catton traffic safety

Cllr Horncastle said that he and Cllr Johnson had met the Highways officer, Neil Snowdon on 19th July who had agreed to draw up draft plans to install more signage designed to slow down the traffic.

New regulations for house building

Co Horncastle said that the county council had been informed two days ago by the new government that it was to increase house building across the county by 220%. He said that it was not yet clear whether the increase was to be applied to the housing target of the previous government which was 570 houses/year, or the actual numbers of houses built which was 850/year. Co Horncastle said that whilst the new Northumberland train line opened up a whole new market for house buyers, there would be pressure from builders to build in more lucrative areas like the market towns with talk of a re-grade of the green belt. He said that the county council would need extra resources for its planning department and that the additional supply of materials from quarries would need to be planned for. There would also be a huge demand for more skilled workers he said.

Whitfield road closure

Cllr Horncastle said that the topographical survey was now complete and that the tender for the ground investigation work would be sent out in the next two weeks.

7) Towns & Villages Committee

Allendale Market Place resurfacing

Cllr Kirk proposed that the Parish Council suspends the use of the part of the market place (a registered village green) bounded by Allen House, the Bull Ring, The Hearse House and the highway passing the Post Office, from 12th August 2024 for up to four weeks, and authorises the removal of vehicles and other obstacles from this part of the Market Place for the duration of the suspension, at the owners' cost, and this was seconded by Cllr Gray. The tarmacking work, to be conducted by Coulson Construction was expected to take two days, and in preparation for this the Parish Council would be notifying people using polite but firm notices placed on vehicle windscreens and social media announcements (**post meeting note: the suspension date start date was revised to 14th August**).

Mower repairs update

The Clerk had received an advice note from Rickerby's for replacement oil (£22) for the mower's oil leak and was expecting a further bill for the repair itself.

8) Correspondence

Margaret Knight – The Clerk to inform Margaret of the suitable place agreed with by Cllr Philipson for planting a memorial tree in the woodland area in the autumn for her late husband.

Craig Atkinson – Cllr Gray had added the elm tree on to the Council's tree schedule and Matty Robson would assess what work was needed when he next surveyed all the trees in early autumn.

Linda Handcock – Cllr Philipson had conducted some remedial work to Linda's late parents grave where the grass had not recovered by filling in the hollow adjacent to the grave with clay and putting back the turf. He said that he hoped that the grass would now take hold, but he would continue to monitor it over the next few weeks/months.

Chris Garner – The Council agreed to include an agenda item for its September meeting to discuss issues relating to the maintenance of the Recreation Ground.

Rod Milburn – Cllr Johnson said that he had talked to Northumberland County Council's Warren Simpson who was assessing the damaged path, wall, and bank at The Riding when he was passing. Warren

acknowledged the extent of the problem and said that the erosion was likely caused by the water not reaching the drain twenty yards further down but running off the road at the point of damage because of the camber of both road and pavement at that point. Co Cllr Horncastle suggested that the Clerk email Warren for an update so that she could let Rod know what plans he was proposing.

Jared Dunn – The Clerk to confirm that the grass cutting equipment would be removed from St Cuthbert's churchyard at the end of the grass cutting season and before the autumn.

9) Finance Committee

Accounts for payment/bank reconciliation

Cllr Kirk proposed that the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr White.

Treasurer's Account bank balance as of 31 st July 2024.	£11,011.18
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Business 30-Day Notice Account bank balance as of 31 st July 2024	£10,929.58
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Public sector Deposit Fund of CCL bank balance as of 31 st July 2024	£60,000.00
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New Financial Regulations

Cllr Kirk said that he had delayed the review of the new financial regulations and adopting these for Allendale Parish Council as it was required by the rules to review the financial regulations after the appointment of a new clerk or new Responsible Financial Officer.

Lloyds Bank Mandate

The Clerk confirmed that the process for adding Cllrs Swaile and Gray as new signatories was now complete although the online banking request was still being processed.

10) Matters for 5th September 2024 agenda.

Allendale Estates felling works update

Bus shelter update

Concrete strips for Allendale Cemetery update

Grant applications

Local Transport Plan 2024/2025 feedback and priorities for 2025/2026

RoSPA annual inspections update

Surfacing works in Allendale centre update

Traffic safety along Station Road update

Village tidying update

11) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There was one item.

12) Date of next Parish Council

The next monthly Parish Council meeting would take place on **5th September 2024** at 7pm at **Allendale Village Hall**.

The meeting ended at 20:35