

## Minutes from the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council

Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 19:00 – Ninebanks Church and Community Hall

**Present:** Steve Agar (Chair), David Adams, Rowland Hull, Joanne Sutterby (Clerk) and Lambert Tuffrey (public observer)

**Apologies:** Helen Adams and Lee Sutterby

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Lambert Tuffrey from Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey to the meeting as a public observer. Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were briefly discussed and noted as being correct.
2. **Matters arising from previous meeting:**
  - a) West Allen Parish Council Resilience Group- update: Rowland Hull gave an update about proceedings from the Resilience Group. They are still awaiting an update on progress regarding the Northern Powergrid Foundation grant application. RH also presented a draft resilience plan that had been drawn up by Lis Dales and David Manson. This had been forwarded to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that this is a very useful document. It was agreed that the plan be adopted and must proceed. RH will now inform NCC of the plan with a view to 'Keeping the West Allen Parish on NCC's radar'. LT noted that Throssle Hole would be willing to support local residents in an emergency, should the need arise. The centre has its own defibrillator, although this is not in an accessible place for public use. RH apologised for not including Throssel Hole within the Resilience Group initially, as the centre is essentially its own community within the wider West Allen community. An invitation was extended for a representative of Throssel Hole to join the Resilience Group at the next meeting on 29/03/23.
  - b) Defibrillators for Carrshield & Mohope: The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from both Pauline Elliott at Mohope YHA and Susie Stafford at Carrshield Village Hall in relation to costings for the purchase of defibrillators and summary of needs statements. These had been forwarded to Cllr Colin Horncastle via email on 30/01/23. The Clerk agreed to follow this matter up with CH. RH noted that Whitfield with Ninebanks Parochial Church Council has requested that some money be made available from the Resilience Group to help with upkeep of the Ninebanks defibrillator in the future. Money also needs to be set aside for the upkeep of both defibrillators in Carrshield and Mohope. Discussion was had about how the PC should spend its money in this respect.
  - c) Request for donation- Great North Air Ambulance: A donation of £250 was given to the GNAA by the WAPC during the 2021-22 financial year. It was decided that £100 would be donated to GNAA and £100 would be set aside for annual defibrillator costs.
  - d) Highways issues- traffic survey in Ninebanks: The Clerk reported that traffic survey equipment had been present in Ninebanks for approximately 3 weeks outside the Old Post Office. The Clerk had requested an update from NCC prior to this meeting, but has so far received no response. She also noted that whilst the drain on the outskirts of Ninebanks had been dug out by Highways Dept, the road is still flooding. Therefore an had been sent to Highways Dept with accompanying photos requesting this to be addressed. It was also discussed that the cattlegrid on the road to Allendale above Throssel Hole is in need of repair.
3. **Additional Correspondence:**
  - a) Open Spaces society- updated information for Parish Councils in preparing the definitive map of public rights of way: An email had been received from Frances Hinchcliffe providing a link to the Open Spaces website for future reference.

- b) Neighbourhood Watch- new regional co-ordinator now in post: It was decided that if anyone in the Parish is interested in Neighbourhood Watch or Farm Watch, that they contact the Clerk for further details. A link to Neighbourhood watch could also be added to the PC website. David Adams informed the Council that he is a rural crime volunteer with Northumbria Police. He explained about his role and said it was very much about intelligence gathering. He has an official badge and number. The Rural Crime Team are always looking for volunteers. David agreed to provide the PC with some further information to go on the website.
- c) Public consultation on North East Devolution deal: The Clerk has added a link to the public consultation on the PC website.
- d) Request for a donation- Ninebanks Coronation celebrations. The Clerk had been contacted by Valerie Coulson regarding a donation to help with community activities to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. The group who organised the Ninebanks jubilee celebrations would also like to be able to give all local children a souvenir coronation mug. It was agreed that the PC would donate £50 to the cause.

4 **Planning:** Applications can be viewed at:

<http://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications>

Applicant:	Address:	Details:	Application no:
Mr & Mrs Wilson	Spartywell, Ninebanks	Retrospective – siting of caravan, Change of use from agricultural to temporary short term residential use for family, friends and farm help.	22/00320/FUL <b>Refused</b>
Mr Joseph Colin Reed	Land South West of Woodbine Cottage, Carrshield	Restore and re-build existing derelict dwellings to create single dwelling house with attached holiday-let and erection of ancillary workshop/agricultural storage building.  <b>APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990</b>	21/03532/FUL <b>Refused originally</b> <b>Appealing decision</b>
Stuart Ian Donald & Natasha Ninnim	Whiteley Shield Chapel, Allendale	Listed Building Consent: Resubmission- Conversion of former Methodist chapel to provide 1 no. residential dwelling (use Class C3) with associated parking and	22/03935/LBC <b>Registered-Pending</b>
Mr Young	School House, Ninebanks NE47 8DB	Listed building consent for replacement of decayed wood dormer window frames	22/03439/LBC <b>Registered-Pending</b>

5 **Any other Business:** RH reported that a member of the public had approached him informally regarding missing posts on moorland footpaths above Mohope. No further information has been received on this matter. If anyone would like to come forward with more information or provide a map of the footpath, this will then be sent to the NCC footpaths officer.

Joanne Sutterby informed those present of her intention to resign as Clerk to the Parish Council. She offered to remain in post until after the next PC meeting on 1st June 2023. This will allow for the annual audit of accounts to be completed and to give sufficient time to find a replacement Clerk. The chair thanked her for contribution since taking on the role in March 2022.

Due to the resignation, the proposed changes to the bank mandate with HSBC that were agreed during the meeting of the PC in December 2022 will now need to change. It was therefore decided that Helen Adams, Stephen Agar and Rowland Hull would now become signatories, with any two of the three being able to give authorisation to act on behalf of the WAPC in financial matters. A new mandate form was provided by the Clerk and was completed and signed at the meeting by those present.

The Clerk also noted the need for the PC to decide how items be procured on its behalf in the future. Presently, officers and councillors buy items for the council and claim the money back upon production of a receipt. Payments are made via BACS. If the WAPC is successful in receiving grant funding from NPG in the near future, this issue will need to be resolved as there will be significant purchases to be made.

**6 Date and times of next meetings – Thursday 1st June 2023 at 19:00 in Carrshield Village Hall.**