

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
held at St Cuthbert's Church Hall on Thursday 6th February 2020
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

Present: Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Baxter, Dunn, Galley, Henderson, Hill, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison and Simmonds and Co Cllr Colin Horncastle and H Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Howard and White

2) Planning Sub-Committee

Planning applications

19/01570/FUL – Low Hayleazes, Allendale (discussed at an ad hoc planning meeting on 20th January 2020)
Cllr Philipson proposed no objections to the application subject to the satisfactory re-routing of the footpath, with Cllr Crellin seconding it, and this was unanimously carried by the Council. The Council noted the amendments made to the original application.

20/00201/OUT - Land East of Catton, Lane Foot, Methodist Church, Allen View, Catton

Several members of the public voiced their concerns about planning application 20/00201/OUT for the proposed development of five self-build dwellings on Land East of Catton. The main concerns raised included loss of habitat (for example, wild orchids, black grouse, barn owls); noise pollution from building work; loss of privacy; drainage and flooding problems; and safety concerns because of the poor access to the site at a four-way junction and lack of amenities for children. The Council advised those people wishing to object to the development to refer to the AONB Planning Guidelines and to be specific when making comments on the application; and to also take note of the list of material and non-material planning considerations published by the Northumberland Association of Local Councils:

<https://northumberlandalc.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/resources/Material%20Planning%20Considerations%2015%20Nov%202016.docx.pdf>. Cllr Quinn said that it was not obligatory to comment on-line and that people could write a letter instead. Co Cllr Horncastle emphasised that the planning process was

policy driven, with 93% of applications being determined by officers (who were 100% neutral) under a delegation scheme. He said that he could not make any comments on planning applications at parish council meetings because he was part of the Tynedale Local Area (Planning) Committee that determines applications when the parish council's recommendation was different from that of the planning officer. Cllr Philipson proposed **no objection** to the application with Cllr Dunn seconding it, as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 2: Scale of Housing Development, and this was unanimously carried by the Council. However, the Council wished to raise with the Planning Department its concerns about both residential and amenity access to the site, parking, drainage, ecological impact and loss of amenity to existing neighbours. It also wanted to remind the Planning Department that Allendale's housing needs survey showed that there was a need for smaller houses.

Hearing at the Tynedale Local Area (Planning) Committee to be held on **11th February at 4pm**, Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham, NE46 3NH.

19/04489/CCD & 19/04490/LBC Pre-School Playgroup, Allendale County First School

Decision notices

19/04469/FUL – Land To South Of Parkside, Allendale – GRANTED

19/01949/FUL – Land North West Of Leawater, Allendale – GRANTED

19/04480/FUL – Land South West Of Catton Pumping Station, Catton – WITHDRAWN

19/00630/FUL – Land West Of Doddend Quarry, Allendale – GRANTED

19/01570/FUL – Low Hayleazes, Allendale – GRANTED

19/04776/FUL – Staward Villa Farm, Colliery Lane, Catton – 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 were eleven members of the public in attendance. Bill Edgar, Reporter from the Hexham Courant was also present for the meeting.

Footpath between The Peth and Mill Cottages

A member of the public expressed concern about the deterioration of the riverside footpath and his disappointment that it had still not been reinstated some two years after he had first brought this to the attention of the Council. Cllr Lee said that he was in regular touch with the Footpaths Officer and had made representations regularly, but a lack of resources was hampering any further repairs to the footpath. The Council acknowledged that there were much worse footpaths in the parish, but as the riverside one was part of the historic Isaacs's Tea Trail it agreed that it should put more pressure on NCC to get something done.

Broadband for Allen Valleys (B4AV) update

Mike Robinson gave an update on the project to offer a 1Gbps fibre broadband connection to every property in the Allen Valleys. Whilst there had been some delays, the planning stage was now complete and the cabinets would be installed in Catton and Whitfield in the next couple of weeks. Mr Robinson said that there were plans to get all households connected with a go live date towards the end of the year. He said that there had been a change to the financing of the project since the DCMS announced the **Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme** and that now there was more money available per connection - £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses. He said that there was now a big push to get everyone to apply for the voucher and that once the service was in place and paid for (£30/month) people would get a cash back payment of £150 for households and £300 for businesses. Anybody wishing to volunteer to help with the project should get in touch with Mike at info@b4av.org

Allendale to Peckriding roadside kerb and pavements

The Council warmly thanked Nigel Coats for the fantastic job that he had done of clearing the roadside kerb and pavements from Allendale to Peckriding. Mr Coats suggested that the next job was to get the gullies cleared; Co Cllr Horncastle acknowledged this and said that he had reported the need for jetting and that an extra gully sucker was needed for the area.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 9th January 2020

Cllr Simmonds proposed, and Cllr Quinn seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Allenfields Play Area

The Clerk confirmed that there is no legal requirement for protective surfacing to be provided on children's playgrounds although safety organisations such as RoSPA recommend this. Cllrs Philipson and Howard had met Co Cllr Horncastle on site and agreed that the field be properly drained before the playground is installed. Co Cllr Horncastle to check the status of a small area of land shown on the conveyancing map and whether it was viable to transfer this to Allendale Parish Council. The Clerk said that she had approached the utility companies (NWL/BT/Northern Powergrid) for information about their assets before the drainage work was carried out.

Batey Terrace, Catton

The Clerk said that she had written to Neil Snowdon (NCC) and left a voice mail message but that she was still waiting for a response from him as to when he might be able to visit the site to discuss the blind junction and review parking arrangements on the main road.

Horse chestnut trees, Recreation Ground

The Clerk said that Matty Robson proposed to take down the two horse chestnut trees in poor condition in the Recreation Ground on 15th February and that she would post information on social media shortly before the work was done.

Isaac's Well

Cllr Philipson confirmed that Malcolm Aitchison had arranged for a new bespoke metal grate and frame to be made in Allenheads and that he would carry out the work in more favourable weather conditions.

Litter picker contract

The Council had received compliments about the thoroughness of the work that Natural Ability's Handy Persons Service had carried out on 14th January.

7) County Councillor update

Northumberland County Council Budget

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the County Council were looking at savings again that didn't usually have a massive effect on rural areas, and that he would have more information after 19th February 2020.

Haydon Bridge High School

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had visited the new up and running vocational suite at the High School and that he had been most impressed by the facilities there.

Planning application 19/04480/FUL – Land South West Of Catton Pumping Station, Catton

Co Cllr Horncastle informed the meeting that the applicants had withdrawn this planning application. He recommended that the Council review its Neighbourhood Plan in view of the number of recent developments that had not been anticipated when the Plan was first published.

8) Grant applications

The Council considered applications from thirteen organisations. Cllr Lee proposed that the awards be granted as shown below, with Cllr Simmonds seconding, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

ACA Allenheads Contemporary Arts	£100	Welcome to Allendale & Allen Valleys	£ 50
Allendale Pre-school Playgroup	£200	Sport Tynedale	£ 50
Allen Valleys Get Together	£200	Tynedale Hospice at Home	£ 50
Catton Summer Dance Week	£100	Great North Air Ambulance	£ 50
Deneholme Wood Volunteers	£100	Community Action Northumberland	£ 50

The Council agreed that in future it would provide a pro-forma application to applicants, with stated criteria that applicants would be assessed by.

9) Grass cutting

The Clerk said that she would try and recover costs from Northumberland County Council for carrying out some grass cutting on its behalf.

The Clerk confirmed that representatives of the Bowling Club, Allendale Parish Council and Allendale Village Hall would meet on 12th February to discuss the future maintenance of the Bowling Club.

10) Fly tipping

Cllr Lee reported complaints he had received about mixed waste that had been dumped in two areas in the Parish: the lane near The Spittal leading to Stob Cross, and part of the Common near to the Chimneys. The Clerk to report these to Northumberland County Council and also share the fly tipping reporting link on Facebook to encourage parish residents to report any further instances of fly tipping.

11) Allendale May Fair

Cllr Hill sought the views on the proposal to site the May Fair main stage across the road between the Post Office and Allen House. After discussion, the Council agreed to the request with the area being classed as

Village Green, provided that the Committee consult all those parties affected by the change of arrangements including the Post Office, the Tea Rooms and the residents of Allen House.

12) Looking ahead – creating an annual plan

The Council agreed to postpone this item to the next meeting.

13) Allendale Market Square

Bull Ring

Cllr Dunn said that she had arranged for Matty Robson to remove the tree guard from the tree on the Bull Ring as it was causing damage to the tree. Cllr Philipson said that mechanical equipment may be needed to remove the tree guard in order to protect the tree and that Cllr Howard could help with this.

Northern Powergrid – installation of new underground electricity cables

Cllr Galley to invite his lighting expert contact to review the lighting in the Market Square prior to the installation of new underground electricity cables.

Isaac's Well

Cllr Lee said that the application to HLF's Awards for All scheme for £5k for interpretation and street furniture would, if accepted start on 1st June 2020. He encouraged the Council to look at the work of local company Differentia that provide interpretation and design for outdoor spaces:

<https://www.differentia.co.uk/>

Tree planting scheme

Cllr Dunn said that she was in discussion with Matty Robson about where to site new trees in the parish.

14) Climate Action Allendale

Cllr Hill said that VONNE (Voluntary Organisation Network North East) were in the last 40 organisations (out of 600) to be shortlisted in its bid for National Lottery Climate Action Funding, and that he expected to hear the outcome very shortly.

15) Correspondence

Heather Proudlock, S106 Officer, Northumberland County Council – Cllr Crellin proposed and Cllr Dunn seconded that the Council act as banker so that Allendale Village Hall and Recreation Ground could apply for S106 money to carry out essential repairs to fencing adjacent to the play area, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

16) Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **30th January 2020 - £39,857.44**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9th January 2020 - £ 5233.81**

17) Matters for March 2020 agenda

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

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

There were none.

19) Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **5th March 2020** at Allendale Village Hall at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm.