

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 5th September 2019
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

Present: Cllr Galley (Vice Chair), Councillors Baxter, Henderson, Hill, Howard, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison, Simmonds & White
County Cllr Horncastle
H Newsome (Clerk)

Planning applications

19/02292/FUL – Ashleigh Cottage, Thornley Gate, Allendale – Cllr Philipson proposed, with Cllr Howard seconding, that the Council **support** the application and this was unanimously carried by the full Council.

19/02381/FELTPO – Hemmel Coffee Shop, The Heritage Centre, Allenheads – (Cllrs Howard and Philipson declared an interest in the application). Cllr Howard proposed, with Cllr Lee seconding, that the Council **support** the application and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who did not declare an interest.

19/02680/FUL – Swinhope Row, Allendale – Cllr Sandison proposed, with Cllr Henderson seconding, that the Council **support** the application and this was unanimously carried by the full Council.

19/03564/BT, Catton; 19/03565/BT, O/S Dirt Pot Hotel, Allenheads; and 19/03566/BT, Allenheads – The Council deferred making any observations on the planning applications relating to the proposed removal of all three phone boxes. The Clerk was asked to **request information** on the usage and revenue from the boxes, as well as confirmation of the specific equipment it was proposed would be removed.

19/00630/FUL – Land West Of Doddend Quarry Allendale Northumberland - (Cllrs Howard and Philipson declared an interest in the application). Cllr Simmonds proposed, with Cllr Hill seconding, that the Council **object** to the application and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who did not declare an interest.

Decision notices

19/00483/FUL - The Wintings, Shilburn Road, Allendale – GRANTED

18/04148/FUL/& LBC - Sinderhope Shield, Sinderhope – GRANTED

19/00999/FUL - Half Acres, Catton – GRANTED

19/01314/FUL - Land West of Redhurst, The Dene, Allendale – GRANTED

18/04318/FUL - Land and Buildings West of Waterholme Garth, Allendale – GRANTED

19/01506/FUL - Osborne House, The Peth, Allendale - GRANTED

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Crellin (Chair) and Dunn

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no changes, see APC's website for full list:

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents>

3) Public participation

There were several members of the public in attendance. One member of the public expressed concern that BT had proposed to remove both the public phone boxes in Allenheads. She said that if one or two lives were saved by having access to a public phone box then at least one of the boxes should be retained. Another member of the public expressed interest in agenda item Allendale: a plastic-free town? and said that she didn't think people thought about their use of plastic enough and welcomed the initiative to be free of single-use plastic as there were always other alternatives to this (see item 16) below).

4) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 4th July 2019 & 25th July 2019

4th July 2019 - With an amendment to include a note that Cllr Lee had arrived late for the meeting, and after the discussion of planning applications, the Council agreed that the draft minutes were a correct record and Cllr Galley signed them.

25th July 2019 – Extraordinary planning meeting to discuss 18/02664/FUL – Land South Of Forstersteads, Shilburn Road, Allendale – construction of five eco-friendly log style residential lodges for tourism accommodation

- Cllr Quinn proposed further changes to the revised draft notes. The Clerk said that it was impossible to record and include everything that Councillors and members of the public said when discussing planning applications, and that it was unfair to include the full comments of some contributors and not others. She said that she aimed to summarise the collective comments only, whilst making the Council's recommendation clear. However, Acting Chair Cllr Galley accepted Cllr Quinn's proposed changes and the Clerk was asked to amend them. He said that in future that Councillors' should make a request during the meeting if they want their individual (name and) comments included in the minutes.

5) Matters Arising

Allen House

The Clerk said that the Environment Enforcement Officer at Northumberland County Council had taken up the Parish Council's concerns about the property. He had confirmed that the two parked vehicles are registered to the property and that he still needed to do a search on landownership of the property boundary. The Clerk said that the new owner of the property had hired a skip to clear the house of rubbish.

Japanese Knotweed

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that an officer from Northumberland County Council had been to inspect the Japanese Knotweed along The Folly, and Cllr Lee said that the grass verge in that area had been cut including some of the Knotweed.

Memorial Bench at Chimneys

The Clerk had raised the matter of memorial bench being sited next to a scheduled monument and close to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with Historic England. Whilst Historic England said that the bench *does* intrude within the scheduled area (very marginally), and confirmed whoever erected it should have sought scheduled monument consent before going ahead, it didn't think it was in the public interest to pursue the matter with the landowner on this occasion. Historic England thanked the Council for being so vigilant and flagging it up to them.

Rectory Field

The Clerk said that the joint landowner had still not yet responded to the Council's concern that the disused water tanks present a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles in winter when the water spilled out on the road and freezes, but that she would keep trying for a response from them.

Re-laying of cobbles in the Market Place

There had been some delay to the work and a bit of disruption but work was ongoing.

Waste bins

Cllr Lee to liaise with the Clerk to install a wheelie bin to replace the post-mounted litter bin at Ropehaugh in Allenheads that had proved inadequate for the amount of waste being collected. The Clerk to order a replacement bin lid and fittings for the bin that had been vandalised on The Peth.

6) County Councillor update

Allendale First School

The Council expressed concern at the delay to the transference of the property to the new owner and the continuing deterioration to the building that had recently been vandalised. Co Cllr Horncastle said that he would get another update on the status of the transfer and confirmed that NCC would ensure that the building was safe in the meantime. Cllr Henderson said that the poor condition of the building was having a negative impact on the adjacent pre-school business.

Haydon Bridge High School

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the capital works programme had started five weeks ago and that most of the work should be completed very soon with the exception of the study block. He said that this meant that the full complement of vocational studies programme would not be implemented for another year. Co Cllr Horncastle said that there had been a 10% improvement on exam results.

Roads condition (generally)

Cllr Howard commented on how much superior the condition of the roads were in north Northumberland, particularly the east coast roads in the Seahouses/Bamburgh area. He said that it was clear that far more money must have been spent on those roads in contrast to that spent in Allendale parish. Co Cllr Horncastle and the Council acknowledged that the wear on the roads was maybe less in the east, with frost damage accounting for a lot of the damage in the Allen Valleys. Co Cllr Horncastle said that the roads were even worse in the West Allen area (Mohope) where he was trying to get some improvements done.

Salt dome

Co Cllr Horncastle was trying to get something done about improving the appearance of the salt dome.

Thornley Gate to Mill Cottages road

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was in discussion with Highways to improve the condition of the road. He said that he was optimistic about getting work done but was unsure of the exact nature of the work.

Traffic calming past Allendale Primary School

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the speed gun training had been held up until all volunteers had completed the application process. Even with one person dropping out Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was still looking for two or three volunteers. **Anyone interested in one of the positions should let the Clerk know.**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was aware that the details and design of the alternative road safety measures were still awaited. He said that work was being held up because Highways Manager Neil Snowdon was 'snowed under with work' after recently losing two members of staff, and that efforts were being made to find extra resources for Neil.

7) Allendale Market Square

Cllr Lee said that the new Allendale Interpretation Board had now been installed.

8) Allenfields Play Area update

The Council unanimously agreed to take on the ownership of the land and have full responsibility for the management and maintenance of the new Play Area once it has been installed. The Clerk was asked to request the permission of Karbon Homes to resolve the drainage problems before the work starts. The Clerk was also asked to ensure/confirm that public liability insurance was in place for both the Allenfields Play Area and the Denefields Play Area.

9) Grant Applications

The Council considered applications from nine organisations. Cllr Simmonds declared an interest in St Cuthbert's Church. Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Lee seconded that St Cuthbert's Church and Allendale Youth Ambition be granted £500 each with the remaining applicants being granted £100 each. Cllr Howard then proposed, and Cllr Hill seconded that the awards be granted as shown below, and after a vote of three votes to six, the second proposal was carried by the Council. The Clerk was asked to invite those unsuccessful on this occasion to apply again in February 2020.

Allendale Youth Ambition	£400
May Fair 2020	£250
Higher Ground	£200
St Cuthbert's Church	£400
Allen Valleys Community Broadband Group	£300

10) Gullies and drains

Cllr Galley said he would send an email to David Hunt, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager (Tynedale), Local Services Group to request that the gullies and drains are cleared. The Clerk said that previous requests logged with Northumberland County Council's Customer Services had not been acted on.

11) Internet Banking

Cllr Hill proposed, and Cllr Simmonds seconded that the Council switch to Internet Banking and the motion was unanimously carried.

12) Local Transport Plan 2020 – 2021

The Council discussed what should be included as its top three highways and transport priority issues in the parish for inclusion in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme for 2020/21 and agreed the following:

- a) Road surface improvements from Thornley Gate to Mill Cottages
- b) Reducing the speed limit to 30 mph along Station Road
- c) Reducing the speed limit to 30 mph from Catton Junction to Allen Mill Bridge

13) Village Keeper

The Council approved the job description and person specification that Cllr Baxter and the Clerk had drawn up for the recruitment of a new Village Keeper and agreed to set the rate of pay (for a young person under the age of 16 years) at £50 for 10 hours/month.

14) Street Trading in the Parish

Cllr Hill to advise the Travelling Spoon on a suitable place in the Village to trade on a regular basis.

15) Tree planting in the Allen Valleys

Cllr Hill to contact Emma at North Pennines AONB to discuss encouraging more tree planting in the Allen Valleys and suitable approaches for doing this.

16) Allendale, a plastic-free town?

Cllr Hill said that local people were becoming increasingly positive about putting together a proposal in which the community try and limit the use of single-use plastic. He said that specific objectives would need to be met in order to meet the criteria for achieving Plastic Free Community status including getting businesses and the wider community behind the scheme and events to raise awareness. The Council agreed to support the scheme and Cllr Hill said that he would set about setting up a working party to get things moving.

17) Proposed alterations to Public Rights of Way – St Peter's Church, Spartylea

The Council considered the planned changes to the public rights of way at St Peter's Church (Footpath 23) and Cllr Philipson proposed, with Cllr Quinn seconding that the route V U S be supported and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

18) Correspondence (see Appendix A)

Verona Woodhouse, Catton Resident – The Council discussed the reduction in service at Allendale Library and its dissatisfaction with the closure of the Library on more than 50% of its opening times over the summer. The Clerk to write to the Library Service Manager to ask for a better solution for keeping the library open in future.

Andrea Emsley, Environment Planning Officer, Environment Agency – The Clerk to share information on social media about the changes to Water Resource Licensing that may affect individuals whose homes or business may now require a licence (anyone using non-mains supply of water).

19) Accounts for Payment

Cllr Howard proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Quinn.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **29th August 2019 - £57,448.55**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9th August 2019 - £ 5232.71**

20) Matters for next month's agenda

Planning Committee Guidelines including the 'five-minute rule'

Living Dales

Climate Action Allendale

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

There were none.

22) Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **3rd October 2019** at Allendale Village Hall at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9:50 pm.