

## **Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall**

Present: Cllr Swaile (Vice Chair), Beck, Coulson, Graham, Halliday, Howard, Kirk, Simmonds, and Villiers-Stuart and H Newsome (Clerk).

### **1) Apologies for absence and councillor news**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Howard, Philipson, White and Co Cllr Horncastle.

Cllr Simmonds agreed to represent the Council as a trustee of **Arnison Jubilee Almshouses**.

The Council agreed to extend the deadline for the two councillor vacancies until 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **2) Declarations of interest**

See APC's website for a full list:

[Declarations of Interest \(new council 2022\) 0.pdf \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](#)

### **3) Planning Committee – planning applications**

#### **23/04428/FUL - Pia Troon**

Cllr Kirk proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding this as the housing being provided by the application (being residential dwellings of 2/3 bedrooms) meets the current housing need and it was in keeping with **Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 7: Conversion of Buildings in the Open Countryside**, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

#### **23/03965/LBC - Kings Head Hotel Market Place Allendale**

Cllr Beck proposed **no objection** to the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

#### **23/04304/FUL - Lonkley Head Farm Lonkley Head Allendale**

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

#### **23/04337/FUL - Pineville Shilburn Road**

Cllr Simmonds proposed **no objection** to the application with Cllr Beck seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

### **4) Public participation**

There were **no** members of the public in attendance.

### **5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **6) Matters Arising**

#### **Isaac's Well**

The Council acknowledged the developments of Allen Valley Local History Group (AVLHG) that would be conducting ground works at Isaac's Well in the spring and agreed to contribute of £2,000 towards the work.

### **7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update**

Co Cllr Horncastle sent his apologies for his absence.

### **8) Allotments Committee**

There were no actions.

## **9) Cemetery Committee**

### **Cemetery wall**

Alan Murray had started re-building the stone wall at the entrance to the cemetery although his progress had been a bit hampered due to the very wet weather.

## **10) Rights of Way & Access Committee**

Cllr Swaile said that she had heard from John Rookes of Hexham Ramblers that Northumberland County Council was trialling a scheme in three or four locations that required landowners to maintain or replace Rights of Way structures, and she had asked if NCC could write to Allendale Parish Council with information about the scheme.

## **11) Towns & Villages Committee**

### **Bus stop seating and shelter**

The Bus Shelter working group shared the two short-listed designs for the proposed new bus shelter in Allendale and the Council agreed to present both designs at the community drop-in on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December inviting people to vote for their favourite design.

### **Catton road safety mirror**

The Council agreed that Cllr Graham and Cllr Halliday work with the Catton residents to order and install a replacement mirror at the end of Batey Terrace. Cllr Graham to source a suitable model consulting with Jenny Fairless, and Cllr Halliday to arrange for the removal of the old one and the installation of the new one.

### **Memorial Bench Restoration Programme**

Cllr Graham to discuss with Hilton Graham the likely requirements for maintaining the memorial benches of the next few years now that they were all in good condition following the initial three year programme of refurbishment.

### **Village tree inspection**

Matty Robson had confirmed that he had conducted the second of two visual inspections of the trees in Allendale centre, and the annual visual inspection of the Cemetery trees.

## **12) Correspondence**

**Emily Preston** – The Clerk to complete Northumberland County Council's Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities survey on behalf of the Council.

**Professor Rob Upstill-Goddard** – Cllrs Philipson and Howard had managed to remove a blockage (a knot of roots) in the pipe adjacent to the old Midland Bank using draining rods, resulting in water cascading into Isaac's well at full bore, and there was no longer water running anywhere down the path from Allenfields. The Council agreed to monitor the drainage to ensure that the problem was fully resolved.

**Pauline Robson** – The Clerk said that after investigations by Northumbrian Water and Karbon Homes, the source of the drainage blockage and flooding to Pauline's garden could not be confirmed. However, after investigation using draining rods, Cllrs Philipson and Howard discovered the problem was almost certainly tree roots in Pauline's garden between the two utility hole covers, and as she owned the property, she accepted that it would be up to her to address the issue when ground conditions improve in the summer.

**Roger Morris** – The Council discussed Roger's submission for a memorial bench at Isaac's Well for the late Norah Hancock and agreed that the teak memorial bench (rather than the recycled plastic one) would be better suited to the location in the conservation area.

**Gavin Hunt** – The Council continued to uphold its decision not to conduct tree works on the tree adjacent to Gavin's house.

**Phil Walter** – The Council acknowledged Phil's concern about the drainage issues on Allenfields presenting a hazard for pedestrians using the footpath, but now that blockage had been removed it hoped the problem was resolved (see Professor Rob Upstill-Goddard item above).

**Sarah Ford** – The Council had obtained a list giving the locations of all the salt boxes in the village that it had shared with Sarah.

### **13) Finance Committee**

#### **Accounts for payment/bank reconciliation**

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

<b>Treasurer's Account</b> bank balance as of 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.	<b>£13,414.61</b>
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<b>Business 30-Day Notice Account</b> bank balance as of 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.	<b>£11,042.36</b>
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<b>Public sector Deposit Fund of CCL</b> bank balance as of 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.	<b>£60,000.00</b>
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#### **Finance Committee meeting**

The Finance Committee proposed the draft budget for 2024/2025, and the Council agreed to accept it subject to any public responses received prior to the **11<sup>th</sup> January 2024** full council meeting.

Cllr Swaile thanked Cllr Kirk for all his work on the budget that was much appreciated by all.

The Clerk to publish the draft budget for comment on the Council's website.

### **14) Matters for 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 agenda.**

#### **Bus shelter final decision**

#### **Councillor candidates to be invited to the meeting.**

#### **Finalise 2024/2025 Precept**

### **15) Confidential agenda item (*for Council only*)**

There were none.

### **16) Date of next Parish Council**

The next monthly Parish Council meeting would take place on **11<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at 7pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:41