

## Minutes of the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council

Thursday 3 March 2016 at 7.30 in Ninebanks Church Hall

**Present:** Steve Agar (Chairman), Jennifer Brown, Alan Greaves, Colin Horncastle, John Martin and the Clerk to the West Allen Parish Council Barbara Ingman.

### **Apologies: Ian Reed**

- 1 Matters arising from previous meeting – minutes to be circulated  
Steve Agar has put a new Notice board in Ninebanks and a cheque for £154.74 was issued to cover Steve’s costs. A notice will list the contact details of Councillors and the Clerk’s. People will be invited to contact BI if they want to post anything on the board.  
  
Parmontley Lonnen has been repaired albeit badly and it seems unlikely that it will be resurfaced in the near future.  
Local people in Ninebanks cleared the cundy which has improved the situation around Tower Cottages. It is expected Blackett-Ord will eventually make permanent improvements. BI to contact the council about a problem at the top of Leadgate Bank where water isn’t draining away and proving to be dangerous in icy conditions investigate water freezes. Colin Horncastle outlined work carried out by the Council and the Highways Department following the damage caused by the severe weather in December. Mohope bank will be a priority for the improvements. The landslide on the Middle road will eventually have a safety fence erected. Chris Westerby to be emailed re the road sign at the top of Ouston Bank which has fallen over.
2. Correspondence:
  - (i) Future audit arrangements –Documents had been received which explained that small Parish councils had to decide whether or not to opt out of the external audit arrangements. If the Council decided to opt out no action needed to be taken at this time. The implications of this decision are that from 2017 small Parish Councils with a small income will no longer need to pay for an audit but will need to publish all information on a website. The Council agreed to opt out and BI would look into the procedures needed to publish information about the West Allen PC on a website.
  - (ii) A response to the proposed closure of fire stations received from Haydon Bridge PC was circulated. Haydon Bridge PC made a very strong case and this had been submitted to NCC.
  - (iii) A letter from Grant Davey re concerns over the way the Government’s funding settlement is hitting rural councils was circulated. From the PC point of view it shouldn’t have any effect. A 16% Council Tax rise is expected over a period of four years.
  - (iv) Letters of thanks received from Air Ambulance and Natural Ability
  - (v) Definitive Map Modification Order – confirmation of Order – no motorised vehicles allowed but all other forms of transport are allowed
- 3 Planning:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Result</b>
Mr K Smith	Wind turbine	Land at Coalcleugh NE47 8AT	Pending
Mr Andy Lees	Creation of parking space adjacent to Hearse House	Hearse House, Chapel Bank, NE47 8DB	Pending
Mr Robin Marshall	Glazing of existing canopy,	Spring House, Leadgate NE47 9PA	Granted

- 4 Any other Business - None
- 5 Date and times of next meetings – Thursday 2 June 2016, Thursday 8 September (moved from 1 September)