

Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Thursday 4th November 2021 at 7pm at Allendale Village Hall

Present: Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Graham, Philipson, Simmonds & White
Co Cllr Horncastle and H Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Henderson and Howard

2) Planning Committee – planning applications

21/04208/FUL - Land South West Of Hazeldene Cottage, Sinderhope

Allendale Parish Council had some concerns about the way the dwelling was to be built into the hillside and the potential impact on the highway. However, Cllr Simmonds proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr White seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1 & 2: General Development Principles and Scale of Housing Development, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

3) Declarations of Interest

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

[Links | Allendale Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](https://northumberlandparishes.uk)

4) Public participation

There were two members of the public in attendance.

Planning applications query

Christine Sherwood was interested to know what consideration Allendale Parish Council (APC) gave to the adequacy of existing drainage and sewage systems when discussing planning applications. She raised her concerns as she had observed that sewage was being pumped into the river close to Northumbrian Water's sewage works at Catton. Co Cllr Horncastle and APC confirmed that a) as a statutory consultee for planning applications APC made recommendations based on its Neighbourhood Development Plan and that the disposal of sewage was not the parish council's area of competence; b) Northumberland County Council (as the Lead Local Flood Authority) together with Northumbrian Water were the statutory consultees to comment on the technical aspects of surface water and foul drainage of developments and sign these off (and the Environment Agency if it was a major development or a permit was required) ; c) the parish council had the advantage of local knowledge, and that even if it was not its area of expertise it might give a pointer to the Planning Department, if it had concerns that something was not quite right ; and d) Northumbrian Water would be responsible for ensuring that the infrastructure was adequate and to put in a sewage system that was fit for purpose.

Village Green footpath, Catton

Lesley Campbell asked the parish council for advice about seeking to reinstate the footpath that had previously run from the main road to the Chapel on the Village Green. Co Cllr Horncastle and APC advised that making changes to village greens was notoriously difficult, and suggested taking advice from both Stephen Rickitt, the Chief Officer of Northumberland Association of Local Councils, who was a national expert on village green matters, and David Brooks, the Rights of Way Officer at Northumberland County Council. The Council to pass on helpful information such as contact details.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 7th October 2021

Cllr Philipson proposed, and Cllr Graham seconded that the minutes of the planning meetings held on 7th October 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Community Governance Review – Allendale Parish

Lesley Bennett of Democratic Services had accepted the formal request to carry out a community governance review. She had confirmed that the next step would be to carry out a public consultation over a period of four weeks when notices would be put up around the parish. If there was not a significant level of objection to the proposal, then a recommendation would be made to NCC to approve the request. If approved, the request would come into effect at the next parish council elections in 2026.

Repairs to paved area outside the Post Office and Arnison Terrace

The Council agreed to ask Jason Telford to carry out the work under the terms set out in his estimate unless Hexham Holiday Homes Ltd wanted to carry out the work to its own specification at its own expense.

Request to support installing bollards in front of the Co-op Shop

The Council was still awaiting guidance from Northumberland County Council's Planning Department on the process and procedure for installing bollards in front of the Co-op Shop.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Affordable housing

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had been talking to young people within the parish about the need for more affordable housing. He suggested that the parish council include the topic on the February 2022 agenda with a view to getting a new housing scheme off the ground. The Council welcomed the suggestion and said that what was most needed was housing with affordable rents rather than shared ownership. The Clerk to post information about the discussion on social media nearer the time.

Allendale to Allenheads Road

Co Cllr Horncastle said that Glen Harrison of Highways had confirmed that the B6295 was subject to a monthly statutory safety inspection in line with the current NCC policy, and that any defects found that met the intervention level would be repaired. However, there was no funding in the current financial year to carry out general repairs.

Catton driving and parking conditions

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the police were now taking action and contacting the owners of the cars that continued to create a hazard by parking around the Catton triangle.

Speed bumps

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was continuing to work with Highways to find an alternative solution to speed bumps to ensure the safety of the school children, including the possible installation of an average speed camera provided the funding could be found.

8) Cemetery Committee

Landscape plan

The Council thanked Mick Hall for presenting his ideas (and paper) setting out his proposals for the design and future management of the cemetery, that recommended greater involvement of the wider community. The Council agreed to discuss his proposals at its next Cemetery Sub Committee meeting in the new year.

9) Rights of Way & Access Committee

There was no new information to report this month.

10) Towns & Villages Committee

Allendale War Memorial, Lychgate

The Council unanimously agreed to go ahead with repairs to the Lychgate subject to the agreement of the Church and taking advice from the Planning department. The Clerk to seek further advice and financial assistance from the War Memorials Trust.

11) Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan review

The Council agreed to convene a working group to begin the process of reviewing the Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan on 13th January at 7pm.

12) Recruitment of Councillors

The Council to advertise the councillor vacancies in the new year and follow its co-option policy.

13) Correspondence

Marjorie Robson and Valeria Dunn – parking of camper vans in the Allendale square

The Council agreed to take advice from Stephen Rickett, Chief Officer of the Northumberland Association of Local Councils on what steps it could take to regulate and better manage general parking in the square.

Ken Philipson – allocation of housing in Allendale

The Clerk to ask Northumberland County Council's Homefinder team for an up-to-date statement on housing allocation in the parish.

Jared Dunn – request to include items in the minutes and Chair report

The Clerk to thank Jared Dunn for his comments that the Council had noted.

14) Finance Committee

Accounts for payment

Cllr Crellin proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Graham.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **15 October 2021 - £ 40,006.46**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **11 October 2021 - £ 23,401.29**

15) Matters for 2nd December 2021 agenda

None as yet.

16) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There were none.

17) Date of next Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **2nd December 2021** at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 21:30