

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council  
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

**Present:** Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Dunn, Galley, Howard, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison, Simmonds & White  
H Newsome (Clerk)

**Planning applications**

**19/01314/FUL – Land adjacent to Redhurst, The Dene, Allendale** – Cllr Howard proposed that the Council **support** the application with Cllr White seconding this and the motion was carried by the full Council.

**19/00999/FUL – Half Acres, Catton** – The Council agreed to **no objections** to the application with the exception of Cllr Dunn who abstained.

**19/01401/FUL – Land North of Braeside Cottage, The Peth, Allendale** – Cllr Howard proposed that the Council **support** the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding this. Although Cllr Dunn objected to the application as she said that it was not in keeping with ANDP 5: New build tourism accommodation, bullet one, the remainder of the Council agreed to **support** the application.

**19/01506/FUL – Osborne House, The Peth, Allendale** – Cllr Philipson said that he could not see how the Council could object to the temporary structure to house the Dalek as the NCC had recently set a precedent in approving planning permission for the temporary affixment of ducting to the Grade II listed Allen Mill Bridge structure. He said that Building Conservation Officers had concluded that they had no objection to the affixment of ducting as it can be removed in the future if it is no longer required. Cllr Dunn was concerned about the detrimental effect to the listed building in a conservation area and the Council might be contravening building regulations. The Chair Cllr Crellin reminded the Council that whilst the Council is invited to comment on planning applications in relation to its ANDP it did not have a remit to comment on the listed status of buildings which was for NCC to interpret following national regulations. He also reminded the Council that planning permission was being sought for a temporary consent. After a full discussion Cllr Howard proposed that the Council **support** the application with Cllr White seconding this. Although Cllr Dunn objected to the application the motion was carried by the remaining councillors.

**19/01570/FUL – Low Hayleazes, Allendale** – Cllr Dunn proposed, with Cllr Crellin seconding, that the Council **object** to the application as it is not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to dwellings, bullet points one and two, and this was carried by remainder of the Council with the exception of Cllr White who abstained. The Clerk was asked to let NCC know that the property is adjacent to a bastle house.

**Decision notices**

**19/00808/FUL – Allendale Co-op – GRANTED**

**19/00058/LBC – Allen Mill Bridge – GRANTED**

**19/00808/FUL – Land West Of Low Knockshield, Allendale - GRANTED**

- 1) A general overview of housing in the Parish including how Homefinder and the Common Allocations Policy work with invited guest Susan Ogle, Housing Operations Manager, Northumberland County Council (NCC)**

Susan Ogle said that NCC and registered social landlords such as Karbon Homes and Anchor have agreed a Common Allocations Policy and provide an open, fair and transparent housing allocations system to assess housing needs that is the same throughout Northumberland. She said that the priority banding scheme is used to prioritise applications with priority given to people who are most in need, and that additional criteria are used to support rural communities where there may be a lack of affordable homes. The rural allocations criteria allow for applicants with a connection to the parish to be considered first although the priority banding system is still applied. Susan Ogle shared information on housing allocations made in the

last five years that showed that a) all successful applicants for the Homes for Northumberland Denefields estate had definite local connections with the exception of three properties that were not bid for by people with local connections despite being advertised twice; and b) nine out of the eleven successful applicants for other registered social landlords in the parish (Karbon, Anchor and Castle & Coasts) had definite local connections. Susan agreed to provide helpful information that the parish council could post on its website.

## **2) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Baxter, Henderson and Hill

## **3) Declarations of Interest**

No changes, see APC's website for full list: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents>

## **4) Public participation**

There were three members of the public in attendance. James Robinson Reporter from the Hexham Courant was also present for the meeting.

## **5) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Simmonds seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **6) Matters Arising**

### **Cemetery**

The Council's Cemetery Sub-Committee agreed to meet on 1 July at 6:30pm. The Clerk to book a venue.

### **Rectory Field**

The Clerk was asked to contact the landowner of the field adjacent to Rectory Cottage to ask what progress had been made to the repair of the disused water tanks that were not only causing damage to the garden at Rectory Cottage but would also present a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles in winter when the water spilled out on the road and freezes.

### **Re-laying of cobbles in the Market Place**

The Council discussed the plans to install new underground cables in order to facilitate the removal of the existing overhead network (poles and wires) that Ross Anderson of Northern Powergrid had sent immediately prior to the meeting. This work had been requested by the North Pennines AONB Partnership via Simon Wilson. Cllr Galley was concerned that these works might spoil the work of Coulson Construction to re-lay the cobbles that he confirmed would start in four weeks' time. The Clerk said that Ross Anderson had emphasised that the Council should not delay its cobbles work as Northern Powergrid would re-instate any damage to these works, and that Mr Anderson could also liaise with Coulson Construction for the installation of cable ducts in the cobble areas. Cllr Lee suggested that the Villages Sub-Committee should look at the implications of the work when it next meets. Cllr Philipson said he would update Mike Robinson of Broadband for Allen Valleys (B4AV) so that duct could be laid in some of the locations if it fitted in with its routes.

### **Salt dome**

Cllr Quinn said that his Stage 2 complaint was being reviewed but had been delayed as the investigating officer was off sick. Cllr Quinn referred to correspondence and photos that he circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, and his concern that the salt dome was the same size as the one in Haltwhistle. Cllr Howard said that the walls of Haltwhistle salt dome looked considerably lower and that there seemed to be a significant height difference in the Allendale and Haltwhistle salt domes. Cllr Quinn said that the diameter and overall height of the Allendale and Haltwhistle salt domes were the same. Cllr Quinn challenged the NCC's case officer who concluded in his report to Tynedale Local Area Council that 'there would be no harm to the amenity of local residents'. He also queried whether there had been funding issues as the dome was half the cost of the barn, but Co Cllr Horncastle said that finance was irrelevant to

the planning process. Cllr Quinn said that he had done everything that he could to ensure that those in power could not pretend that they were unaware of the costs and consequences of their actions. Co Cllr Horncastle said that the only way to change the planning committee's decision was by judicial review, and no Parish Councillors had been at the Tynedale LAC planning meeting when the application was considered.

#### **Waste bins**

The Council agreed to meet the costs of the two damaged waste bins that were in need of replacement, as well as to install a new bin at the layby close to Ropehaugh in Allenheads.

### **7) County Councillor update**

#### **Allendale First School**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he could still not yet provide any information on the sale of the school since it was commercially sensitive.

#### **Haydon Bridge High School**

Co Cllr said that the school was currently being Ofsted inspected and that it should be out of special measures by Christmas.

#### **Housing**

Co Cllr Horncastle informed the council that plans were in place for the NCC to build 1,000 new council houses that were never to be sold. The houses would be built where there was a proven need and recommended that the council update its housing needs survey when the new housing scheme is up and running.

#### **Northumberland Local Plan**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the Northumberland Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and that the new plan should be in place by Christmas.

#### **Traffic calming past Allendale Primary School**

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that the granite setts outside Elmcroft had now been removed and that Neil Snowdon of NCC's Highways Department was working on another scheme to try and reduce the speed of the traffic outside the school although the details were not yet known. He said that the school's head teacher remained seriously concerned about the safety of children as some motorists continued to speed despite the measures that have been put in place. The Council acknowledged that the addition of signage, granite setts, speed activated signs and other deterrents did not seem to make any difference to some speeding motorists and it too was concerned for pedestrian safety. Cllr Galley said that it was important that the Council keep reminding people to drive safely and that he would include an item in the Hexham Courant's Village Notes. Cllr Quinn asked if consideration could be given to installing LED vehicle activated signs and moving the school sign closer to the 20mph sign to reminder motorists why it's a 20mph zone. Cllr Lee said that the school parking area was a hazardous area with cars turning and getting in the way of the school buses. Co Cllr Horncastle said that he would share all the concerns raised with Neil Snowdon and bring the details of any new scheme to the Council as soon as they were known. He also asked councillors to challenge speeding motorists if they were known to them.

### **8) Allendale Market Square**

#### **Allen House**

The Clerk was asked to arrange for rubbish to be removed from an area adjacent to Allen House and also enquire about two 'abandoned' cars parked outside the property.

#### **Bench on Bullring**

Cllr Lee to arrange for Malcolm Aitchison to repair the broken bench on the Bullring.

#### **Managing Allendale Village Green**

Cllr Crellin said that he had not yet discussed engaging a specialist barrister with NCC's Principal Solicitor.

**9) Accounts 2018/2019, Internal Audit 2018/2019 and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

**9.1 To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the Internal Auditor**

The Clerk and Cllr Crellin had met with the Internal Auditor Alan Blair to complete the audit procedure and agreed the objectives of internal control were being achieved.

**9.2 To approve the Annual Governance Statement**

Councillors had received a copy of the governance statement for 2018/2019. Cllr Howard proposed, seconded by Cllr Philipson, and agreed unanimously that the governance statement be accepted.

**9.3 To approve the draft annual accounts 2018/2019**

Councillors had received a copy of the draft accounts for 2018/2019. Cllr Howard proposed, seconded by Cllr Philipson, and agreed unanimously that the accounts be accepted.

**9.4 To approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances**

Councillors had received a copy of the accounting statement and explanation of variances for 2018/2019. Cllr Howard proposed, seconded by Cllr Philipson, and agreed unanimously that the statement and explanation of variances be accepted.

**10) Correspondence (see Appendix A)**

**Dr Alan Donaldson, Allenheads resident**

Cllr Crellin to contact Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland County Council, Eden Council and Durham County Council (for Weardale) in order to seek their support to address the nuisance of antisocial C2C cyclists using the countryside as a toilet!

**11) Accounts for Payment (see Appendix B)**

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - £65802.93**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - £ 5232.05**

**12) Matters for next month's agenda – Damage at Shilburn Road**

12.1 The Clerk to find out from Allendale Estates what its policy is on memorial benches in view of the recently installed one at the Chimneys.

12.2 The Council to check if tree surgery is required on the sycamore tree outside the Library.

12.3 The Villages Sub-Committee to discuss what arrangements should be put in place to clear the roads of debris outside the 30mph areas.

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

There were none.

**14) Date of next Parish Council meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Sinderhope Community Centre** at 7pm. The meeting ended at 9:45 pm.