

**Minutes of the Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 4th April 2019
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

Present: Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Dunn, Galley, Hill, Howard, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison & White
County Councillor Horncastle
H Newsome (Clerk)

Planning applications

19/00808/FUL – Land West Of Low Knockshield, Allendale – proposed stable. Whilst Cllr Dunn objected to the application as she said it was not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan, ANDP 1: General Development Principles Bullet 2, she was overruled by the remaining Councillors and the Parish Council agreed to **no objections** to the application.

19/00914/FUL – Allendale Co-op – move rear staff entrance door and install external steps to enable the installation of a platform lift. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **no objections** to the application.

19/00630/FUL – Retrospective: Re-surface existing helicopter landing area with concrete hard standing (Cllrs Howard and Philipson declared an interest in this application). The Parish Council discussed this application and unanimously agreed that it could not consider the application as described as being retrospective, because there was no evidence of planning permission for the existing landing area. The Council unanimously agreed that the Planning Department should take appropriate action and take into account the following comments: (a) the application should be for the construction of a helipad, not the re-surfacing of an existing one; (b) the drawings are not to scale and inaccurate with the true area being 66% bigger than shown; (c) the ecological survey is comprehensive and well-written although the bird monitoring is from 2005; (d) there is no indication of how often the helipad would be used in future; (e) there is no information about safety arrangements for walkers that use the footpath that runs right by the helipad; (f) there is no mention that the helipad is on common land and so needs consent from the Secretary of State for the Environment; and (g) there is an unjustified assertion that the helipad is not harmful to the special scenic qualities of the AONB.

Decision notices

18/04509/FUL – 3 Wentworth Terrace, Allendale – **GRANTED**

18/03971/FUL – Land South of Staward Villa, Colliery Lane, Catton – **GRANTED**

1) Apologies for absence

Councillors Baxter, Henderson and Simmonds

2) Declarations of Interest

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

3) Public Participation

There was one member of the public in attendance. James Robinson, reporter from the Hexham Courant, was also present for the meeting.

The member of the public wanted to thank Cllr Dunn for her well organised and successful litter-picking event on 30th March arranged as part of the Keep Britain Tidy's National Spring Clean. She also wanted to thank Cllr Galley for his help in raising awareness of dog waste issues as she had observed much improvement helped by the messages Cllr Galley had put out in Village Notes.

4) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th March 2019

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Lee seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

Allendale Primary School

Cllr Lee thanked Reporter James Robinson for including an item in the Hexham Courant on the very high standard of results achieved in the writing at the end of Key Stage 2 that put Allendale Primary School in the top 1% of primary schools in England.

Cemetery clean up

The Clerk agreed to Cllr Dunn's suggestion to arrange a date for a tidy up of the Cemetery as soon as practically possible. The Clerk suggested aiming for a date soon after the lambing season.

Drop kerbs and markings

Co Cllr Horncastle to find out from Neil Snowdon when drop kerbs will be installed correctly in the Market Place as had been previously agreed following on from his visit on 21st September 2018. Residents using the pedestrian crossing on their mobility scooters are unable to access the post office without going the long way around.

Karbon Homes meeting to discuss Allenfields Play Area

Co Cllr Horncastle to propose a date from 23rd April onwards for himself and Cllrs Baxter, Henderson and Hill to meet with representatives of Karbon Homes to discuss Allenfields Play Area.

May Fair and road closure

Cllr Hill said that Northumberland County Council had confirmed that it was able to arrange a simple road closure on the main road for the May Fair at the reduced rate of £100.

Pavement sweeping and gutter clearance

The Council to take Co Cllr Horncastle's advice and liaise with Local Services so as to ensure that efforts to keep clear the pavements and gutters are focussed on the stretches of footpaths and roads prioritised by the Council. This priority list should include the stretch of road from Catton triangle to Mill Cottages so as to avoid the flooding of the houses there. Co Cllr Horncastle to arrange with Local Services for a road sweeper to attend to this stretch as soon as possible.

Rectory Field

The Clerk to make contact with the landowner of the field adjacent to Rectory Cottage concerning the repair of disused water tanks served by springs that are leaking and causing damage further afield including Rectory Cottage.

Rights of Way Sub-Committee

Cllr Lee to convene a meeting with all members of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee.

Salt dome

Cllr Quinn said that he should get a response to his formal complaint to NCC's Director of Planning about the approval of the planning application for the Salt Dome at Allendale's NCC Depot in the next few days.

Strimmer

The Council authorised Cllr Philipson to buy a new medium sized strimmer priced at around £247 plus VAT.

Traffic calming past Allendale Primary School

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that the double granite setts close to Mr and Mrs Stuart's home are going to be removed. He said that alternative road safety measures were not yet known as the designs were still awaited. Cllr Quinn remained concerned for pedestrians using the drop kerb to cross the road from the Denefields estate to the opposite side where there is no drop kerb. He said that pedestrians see vehicles approaching from Deneholme corner slowing down and that they don't know whether the vehicles are slowing down for them to cross the road or whether the motorists are responding to the 20mph speed limit. After discussion Co Cllr Horncastle agreed to pursue the possibility of extending the footpath from Denefields to the school so as avoid the need for pedestrians to cross the road at all.

6) County Councillor update

Haydon Bridge High School (HBHS)

Co Cllr Horncastle said the last 12 months had been really positive with building work due to start at HBHS on a new vocational centre, improvements to the front of the building as well as new car parks. He said

that the plan was for the school to be out of special measures by spring 2020 and that there had been massive improvement in a short period of time helped by there being no threat of closure hanging over the school. Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had confidence in the Interim Executive Board governing body that was made up of specialist professionals, including two OFSTED inspectors, brought in especially to manage the school. Cllr Hill said that it would be fantastic to get the school out of special measures although he said that healthy class sizes were needed for it to work and he remained concerned about the viability of the school especially for pupils post 16 years. Co Cllr Horncastle said that there were currently around 360 pupils and that the figures for September were higher.

7) Allendale Market Square

Villages Sub-Committee Meeting

a) Managing Allendale Village Green

Cllr Sandison said that after a full discussion the sub-committee proposed to follow Stephen Rickitt's recommendation to build a case that the Bull Ring area is both public highway and village green. This would allow the highway authority to relocate part of the highway, and provide parking and other amenities, under various powers in the Highways Act and elsewhere. The Chair said that barristers would not take instructions directly from clients such as the Council and that any approach would need to be made through a solicitor. Chair, Cllr Crellin said that he had arranged to meet a local practising solicitor on 5th April who would be willing to take forward the issue at her practice on behalf of the Council.

b) Re-laying of cobbles in the Market Place

Cllr Galley said that he would agree a new date for Coulson Construction Ltd to carry out the work that would not get in the way of the May Fair. Cllr Galley to invite Coulson Construction to provide a quote for re-surfacing the area of parking close to the Forge when they come to re-lay the cobbles.

c) Village seating

The Clerk to ask Melvin Robinson to bring the seating furniture back to the Village from the Chapel of Rest where it was stored during the winter.

d) Plants for the flower tubs in Allendale

The Council agreed to the Clerk's suggestion to set up an account at Down to Earth where plants/flowers are bought for the tubs each year so that the Council can benefit from claiming back the VAT.

f) Plants for the flower tubs in Allenheads and Catton

The Council agreed to Cllr Philipson's suggestion to offer the Allenheads Trust and Catton WI £50 each year to pay for plants for their flower tubs.

8) Correspondence (see Appendix A)

There were no actions.

9) Accounts for Payment (see Appendix B)

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **29 March 2019 - £ 55,111.28**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **11 March 2019 - £ 5,231.62**

10) Matters for next month's agenda – Annual General Meeting with Election of Chair and Vice Chair, and Appointment of Committees.

11) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There were none.

12) Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **2nd May 2019** in St Cuthbert's Church Hall at 7pm. The meeting ended at 8:21 pm.