

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)
held on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7pm**

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

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Henderson

2) Planning Sub-Committee

Planning applications

21/00517/FUL – Housty Farm, Allendale

Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Galley seconding this and the motion was carried by a majority of the Council. Cllr Lee declared an interest and abstained from the discussion and vote. Cllr Dunn abstained.

20/00679/REM – Location Field West Of Lea Hall Splitty Lane, Catton

The Council had **no comments** to make as it was a Highways issue and it unanimously agreed to support its original decision on this matter.

21/00757/FUL – Beaumont Lea Shilburn Road, Allendale

Cllr Dunn proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Crellin seconding this, as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extension to Dwellings, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

21/00817/FUL – Kiln House Allenheads

Cllr Philipson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Dunn seconding this, as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extension to Dwellings, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

20/02417/FUL – Land North Of Lonkley Lodge, Lonkley Head, Allendale

Members of the public had raised their concerns, both before and at the meeting, about the lack of reference to the underground water tank and the drainage problems that affected residents lower down the field. Cllr Philipson once again noted that there was no reference to safeguarding the water supply to Isaac's Well, and Roger Morris (the driving force behind Isaac's Tea Trail) had written to the Parish Council stating that the application posed a direct threat to the existing storage vessel that would either halt or disrupt the water supply to the Grade II listed building. Cllr Quinn proposed **to object** to the application with Cllr Galley seconding this, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council. The Council recommended that the Planning Officer contact the Newcastle Diocese because of the existence of a covenant preventing development of the land.

21/00849/FUL – Land Known As Bank Side Catton B6303 Station Road To Catton, Allendale

Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 7: Conversion of Buildings in the Open Countryside and Policy 8: Demolition and Reconstruction of Derelict Buildings, paragraphs b, c, e and f, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

3) Declarations of Interest

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

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents>

4) Public participation

There were two members of the general public in attendance. Ginny Swaile was also present for the Wild Planting Scheme item.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 4th January 2021

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Howard seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Bowling Green

Cllr Dunn said she was in touch with Penny Little about sources of funding and that the Club had now found someone to cut the grass.

Denefields Play Area

Cllr Howard proposed that the Council agree to Playdale carrying out groundworks to level the ground prior to the installation of the new climbing frame, and this was seconded by Cllr Philipson and unanimously carried by the Council.

Elections May 2021

Cllr Hill said that since he would be standing down as a councillor, he wanted to thank his fellow councillors for all their work. He said that it had been a privilege and a pleasure to serve alongside such inspiring people who clearly had the best interests of the village and community at heart.

Footpaths update

Cllr Lee said that there had been no further update on the status of footpaths and that he was made aware that current resources for repairs was limited due to staff retirements, and that the Footpaths officer was currently on leave.

Isaac's Well

Cllr Dunn said that the application for Community Chest funds had not been successful.

Resurfacing of parking area adjacent to The Forge

The Clerk confirmed that Ernie Coulson had agreed to visit the site to mark out the area where the work is to be carried out although no date had yet been fixed. The Council agreed to the Clerk's suggestion to invite the staff of the Forge to meet with Ernie when he visits so that they could discuss how its business was likely to be affected by the work.

Tree planting scheme

Cllr Dunn confirmed that Allendale School had welcomed the proposal to plant fruit trees on the bankside adjacent to the school.

7) County Councillor update

Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP)

Co Cllr Horncastle said that there was still resistance from Planning Officers to use the ANDP, and for them to use it in a positive way rather than a negative way, and that officers continued not to give proper weight to the ANDP given that it still remained the most recently adopted plan. He said that he and David English continued to remind the Planning Officers of this point.

Community Speed Gun

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the scheme was on hold until the training could be rolled out once pandemic restrictions were eased. He said that he was hopeful that the speed limit along Station Road would be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

Denefields estate

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had been talking to residents of the Denefields estate about improving their personal safety when walking from the estate to school. He said that he hoped to: a) secure funding to install either a pavement from the estate to the school, or a proper crossing to the other side of the road

where there was a footpath; and b) to extend the 20mph speed limit to include the area past the estate entrance.

Land North Of Lonkley Lodge Development and affordable housing

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had seen the discussion on the Allendale Area Notices Facebook page about the need for more affordable housing in Allendale, and said that it was now time for more affordable housing in the parish as it had been 10 years since the Denefields site was developed. He said that private housing schemes had to provide only a certain percentage of affordable units, and this was 20% in the Allendale area. He believed that there was scope for more affordable housing and that he wanted to work with the parish council to get another affordable scheme off the ground but that finding the land would be the biggest hurdle. Cllr Quinn thanked Co Cllr Horncastle for what he had done over the years, and welcomed the proposal to install a pavement from the Denefields estate along to the school, that would help disabled residents as well as young families. Cllr Quinn also said that many local residents could not afford 'affordable housing' and that affordable *rents* were needed more.

Planning Department activity

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the Planning Department was a hive of activity which was a healthy and good sign of business activity picking up, as the pandemic lockdown started to ease.

Repair to roads

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was very much aware of the many potholes that needed filling including some very bad ones on the Carrshield road, and that the contractors were out and work was progressing.

8) Coronavirus matters

There was no new information to report this month.

9) Long Term Plan

Cllr Dunn had circulated an updated version of the long-term plan prior to the meeting and Cllr Crellin thanked her and Cllr Philipson for all that had been achieved and was underway. The Council agreed that it should be working closer with representatives of the community and facilitating working groups such as the newly formed Electric Vehicle Charging group and the proposed Cemetery working group to include representation from the Allen Valleys Local History Group. It also agreed that it was for the newly appointed Parish Council to determine priorities following on from the May election, and that it could be considered a suitable topic for the Annual Parish Meeting.

10) Refurbishment of Historical Monuments (including Isaac's Well)

The Council unanimously agreed to meet the costs of the repair work to the Glendinning Monument. The Council agreed to Cllr Philipson's proposal to hold a Finance Sub-Committee meeting following on from the May elections to review its commitments on project costs, including inviting tenders for the design and installation of the proposed refurbishment of Isaac's Well.

11) Revised Policy on Grant Funding

Cllr Philipson proposed to distinguish between Section 137 monies set aside for national charities (and have an upper limit on these) and those for community groups within the parish.

12) Wild Planting Scheme

Ginny Swaile thanked the Council for the opportunity to share information on the Wild Planting Scheme and the wild flower nursery that she runs at Higher Ground. The scheme promotes the rewilding of gardens, community spaces, school grounds and road verges and encourages people to set aside ground to grow native wildflowers and trees (for example, primroses, melancholy thistle and scabious) including those propagated in the wildflower nursery. Ginny said that local residents were already creating completely wild areas and/or adding more native plants to their planting schemes, but that the project wished to have the help of the Parish Council to identify community areas where there could be a no-mow

policy. Some community areas had already been set aside for the scheme including St Cuthbert's Church yard (for wild flowers) and Allenfields and the Recreation Ground (for fruit trees), and Ginny invited further suggestions from the Council. The Council thanked Ginny for all her work on the scheme and after discussion, and, provided that the vegetation did not restrict visibility for drivers, agreed to the following actions: a) the Council to offer up the following community areas for re-wilding: the grassed area half way down the Peth, the triangular area of grass close to Batey Terrace, and a two-metre wide strip of land close to the wall next to the Old Rectory; b) the Council to consider a no-mow policy in specific areas of the Cemetery as well as creating a wild flower planting scheme there; c) The Council and Ginny to encourage NCC to extend its scheme, where some verges were left intentionally uncut until later in the season, and in order to maintain flower-rich habitats in specific areas of interest. Cllr Crellin reminded the Council that it had a remit to enhance biodiversity in the parish to mitigate against climate change and welcomed the opportunity to support the scheme.

13) Towns & Villages Sub-Committee

Bus shelter for Catton

Cllr Lee said that he had now received an estimate of £3,500k from GW Solutions for the provision of a new bus shelter for Catton. The quote included installation and reinstatement but there would be additional costs for a permit from NCC at £275, and costs for traffic management should it be required (around £450).

Electrical Vehicle Charging

Cllr Lee said that Richard Mackenzie, NCC's Senior Programme Officer in Technical Services had received an estimate of £1,700 for a new connection on the Store Bank (near the telegraph pole between the Co-op and the Gift Shop) for a dual outlet 22kw fast charger. The location was deemed as ideal because it was central and within the highway and close to the electricity supply. The connection charges would be paid for by NCC. The Council agreed to a strip of car parking adjacent to the mine yard should be proposed for suitable charging points in Allenheads. Cllr Lee suggested that the Council consider setting up charging points up at the two locations where there are proposed small-scale housing developments in Catton, and where new power cables are likely to be installed: the lane from Catton Chapel and Splitty Lane. He said that this might well alleviate parking issues, especially at Catton Lane Foot.

Memorial Benches in the Parish

The Council considered the two tenders that it had received to take responsibility for the restoration and ongoing general maintenance of around 40 memorial benches within the Parish of Allendale, and agreed to appoint Hilton Graham to carry out the work.

Village maintenance

The Council agreed to invite Malcolm Aitchison to carry out village tidying works in Allendale as in previous years.

14) Climate Action Allendale

There was no new information to report this month.

15) Correspondence

Allen Smelt Mill Chimneys

Cllr Simmonds said that Thomas Gledhill of Historic England had confirmed that he would be getting in touch with the landowner, Allendale Estates, asking that they carry out repairs to the stonework inside the shorter of the two smelt mill chimneys. Cllr Crellin agreed to write to Allendale Estates urging it to repair, and make safe this iconic structure that was so important to the Allen Valleys history and heritage.

Allendale Village Hall

The Council discussed correspondence from Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) that reported that the government was not extending the current specific power to hold digital meetings as set out in the Coronavirus Act 2020 beyond 6th May 2021, and agreed to keep watch on further

announcements since this had been challenged by NALC and other parties. The Council agreed in principle that if and when face-to-face meetings are resumed it would return to using the Village Hall for meetings.

Damage to the stoned path at the front of Arnison Terrace

The Council discussed the enquiry concerning damage to the stoned path at the front of 6 Arnison Terrace that was deemed a trip hazard by Hexham Holiday Lets, and agreed that the Town & Villages Sub Committee investigate it.

Request for the Parish Council to sell land around the back on Lonkley Terrace

The Council discussed, and turned down a resident's request to buy land around the back of Lonkley Terrace from the Parish Council so that he could install a heating oil tank.

Tree planting scheme for the Cemetery

The Council agreed to commissioning a landscape plan for the Cemetery with a planting scheme to include native species of trees and wild flowers. Until the plan was in place the Council agreed that only early spring flowering bulbs may be planted so that the grass can continue to be mowed around the burial plots, and all requests for memorial trees, whether these are adjacent to the graves or not, should be put on hold.

Turning area along Batey Terrace

The Council agreed to get a quote from Ernie Coulson for the reinstatement of the turning area along Batey Terrace.

16) Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **March 2021 - £ 41,696.08**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **March 2021 - £ 23,400**

17) Matters for 13th May 2021 agenda

Annual Parish Meeting

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

There were none.

19) Date of next Parish Council Zoom teleconference

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **13th May 2021** at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 21:23