

**Minutes of the Allendale Parish Council Meeting  
held at St Cuthbert's Church Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

**Present:** Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Baxter, Galley, Henderson, Howard, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison & Simmonds

County Councillor Horncastle

H Newsome (Clerk)

**Planning applications**

**19/00029/VARYCO** - Low Sunnyside, Catton –variation of approved planning application 12/01580/VARYCO  
The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **no objections** to the application.

**18/04509/FUL** - 3 Wentworth Terrace, Allendale – single storey rear extension  
The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **no objections** to the application. The Clerk was asked to let the Planning Department know that the property does not have listed status.

**19/00234/LBC** - 2 Brides Cottages, Allendale – retrospective consent to regularise works carried out prior to applicant's occupancy in 2008.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **no objections** to the application.

**19/00273/FUL** - Highfield Close, Highfield, Catton – two-storey rear extension. (Co Cllr Horncastle declared an interest in this application). The Parish Council unanimously agreed **to support** the application.

**18/04318/FUL** - Land And Buildings West Of Waterholme Garth, Allendale – proposal to redevelop existing house and barn for residential use (Cllr Henderson declared an interest in this application and left the room). The Parish Council unanimously agreed **to support** the application.

**19/00285/VARYCO** - Land South Of The Wintings, Shilburn Road, Allendale – variation of approved planning application 15/03125/FUL.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **no objections** to the application.

**Decision notices**

**18/02073/FUL & 18/02704/LBC – Rookery Nook, The Peth, Allendale – GRANTED**

**18/03728/VARYCO – Council Depot, Shilburn Road – GRANTED**

**18/02632/RENE – Land South East Of Sinderhope Shield, Sinderhope – GRANTED**

**18/04143/LBC – Hotspur House, Arnison Terrace, Allendale – GRANTED**

**18/02145/FUL – High Scotch Hall – GRANTED**

- 1) Managing the Village Greens with invited guest, Stephen Rickitt, Chair of Northumberland association of Local Councils (NALC)**

**Adopted highway**

Stephen Rickitt, Chair of NALC and former solicitor for Northumberland County Council presented information on the legalities of making changes to Allendale centre in view of a number of areas of land registered under the Commons Act 1965 as village green. If the Parish Council is to set about closing off the diagonal road between the Bull Ring and the car park, and replace it with the road passing in front of the Post Office instead, then a lawful way of doing this would need to be found.

Stephen said that original registration was riddled with anomalies and that the registration as a Village Green poses issues of legality of carrying out works on the village green that the Parish Council would need to somehow overcome when planning improvements. He said that fortunately there is a scheme of management under the Commons Act 1899 (the Scheme) that gives the Parish Council some powers that it can use under an agreement with the County Council.

Stephen outlined various approaches that the Council could take including the one he favoured and recommended: to seek authorisation under section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 and build a case that the area is both highway and village green. Stephen would outline and summarise his approach in an email to the Council after the meeting.

### **Parking mobile homes on Village Green**

At its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December the Council had discussed the legalities of parking caravans and motor homes in the Village Square and since there remained uncertainty around what is lawful. Stephen Rickitt advised that ***The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986*** set out under ***Regulation 103*** that 'No person in charge of a motor vehicle or trailer shall cause or permit the vehicle to stand on a road so as to cause any unnecessary obstruction of the road'. He confirmed that it is a police matter although it is not commonly known so, and that determining whether it can be classed as nuisance can be tricky but 'aesthetics' is not classed as nuisance.

### **Abandoned vehicles**

Stephen Rickitt advised that abandoning vehicles that are either not road worthy or registered as off road (SORN) is an offence and should be reported to the DVLA. The Parish Council should decide if a vehicle is abandoned by following GOV.UK guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/abandoned-vehicles-council-responsibilities>

## **2) Apologies for absence**

Councillors Dunn and White

## **3) Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Baxter declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society

Cllr Crellin declared an interest in the Dale Singers, Allendale Folk Festival & Allen Valleys Promotions Ltd and St Cuthbert's Church

Cllr Henderson declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society, Allendale Horticultural Society and Allendale Baby & Toddler Group

Cllr Lee declared an interest in Allendale Primary School, Arnison Jubilee Almshouses & Health Walks

Cllr Philipson declared an interest in High Forest Community Association, Allenheads Trust & Natural Ability

Cllr Quinn declared an interest in Natural Ability

Cllr Sandison declared an interest in Allendale Film Club

Cllr Simmonds declared an interest in St Cuthbert's Church, North Pennines AONB Partnership Board & Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Board

## **4) Public Participation**

There were fifteen members of the public in attendance.

### **Sci Fi Museum**

Neil Cole was present for the meeting along with many of his supporters. He expressed the strain that he and his family had been put under following on from receiving a letter from Northumberland County Council's Planning Department requesting that he remove the shed and bollards from the front of his property within 14 days. Neil said that he had installed the collapsible bollards as a security measure and to prevent people from parking vehicles on his property as this had been a problem. Neil thanked his supporters for all their support, and re-affirmed to the Council that his intentions were all good, wishing to bring only joy to the Village. One member of the public said that she had regretted that it had taken a while for the Parish Council to issue a statement.

Chair, Cllr Crellin said that the Parish Council had consistently supported and continue to support the development of the Sci Fi Museum as it brings many benefits to the community. Businesses such as Neil's were needed for the community to thrive. Whilst Allendale Parish Council was in support of the business, it also acted on behalf of the whole community as a conduit to NCC's Planning Department on listed building

issues brought to its attention by members of the public and/or councillors. He said that whilst the Parish Council can comment on applying its own Neighbourhood Development Plan, which provides local specific planning policies, it is unable to comment on listed buildings issues: it is not trained to do so, nor is it expected to go into that level of detail. Cllr Crellin said that listed building issues differ from building to building and that the Parish Council is not in a position to interpret the national regulations that are intended for appropriately trained Planning and Conservation Officers to interpret.

Co Cllr Horncastle acknowledged that Neil had spent many years doing his best to try and make the business viable and he recognised the work that Neil had put in at his own expense both in developing the museum and the listed building itself. He said that he was aware of Neil's work to the outside of the building to clear the area that was being used as a dumping ground. Co Cllr Horncastle said that when a complaint is made it has to be investigated and any enforcement action taken. He confirmed that the notice to remove the shed within 14 days had been put on hold and meanwhile the Head of Planning, Flo Churchill, accompanied by a conservation officer would meet Neil and Lisa on site on 18th February. Co Cllr Horncastle very much hoped that all parties would find a way forward.

### **Dog waste problems**

One member of the public raised concerns about dog waste and asked if the Council could either provide more waste bins or have them emptied more frequently. She was also concerned that there is dog waste amongst the leaves on footpaths and asked if these could be cleared. Chair, Co Crellin, confirmed that waste bins in the parish are suitable for both general and dog waste and NCC empty these. Cllr Lee said that the Council reps had met with Neighbourhood Services reps to review the locations of bins to be serviced, and identified where new bins are needed and budgeted for them. Cllr Henderson said that she is liaising with NCC's Animal Welfare & Dog service and encouraged people to report any dog mess they see either to the Parish Council or directly to NCC:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Animals.aspx#dogmess>

Cllr Henderson said that if people report a good description of the dog and offender, then NCC staff would follow up on the complaints, investigate these and take appropriate action.

### **Footpath between The Peth and Mill Cottages**

A member of the public expressed concern about the deterioration of the riverside footpath, halfway along the footpath between The Peth and Mill Cottages where a sewage pipe is protruding, that is in need of some corrective action. The Chair asked that the Rights of Way Sub Committee address this issue at their next meeting.

### **5) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019**

In future, the Council agreed that when reporting on planning application recommendations in the Minutes, the Clerk should refer to the Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy and relevant bullet points but stop short of including the matching narrative. The Council agreed that the Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 should stand without amendment. Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Simmonds seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **6) Matters Arising**

#### **National Spring Clean Initiative**

On behalf of Cllr Dunn, the Clerk informed the Council that Cllr Dunn has set a date for Allendale Primary School's involvement in the Keep Britain Tidy's National Spring Clean initiative which is to be Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Councillors to let Cllr Dunn know if they are free to take part.

#### **Tree surgery at Cemetery**

The Council agreed to accept Bill Pierce Trees quotes for essential tree surgery work required at the Cemetery. The Clerk to give Bill Pierce to go ahead for carrying out the work.

## **Allendale Primary School**

Cllr Lee informed the Council of the very high standard of results achieved in the writing Key Stage 2 assessments last year, in which 100% of pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in writing at the end of Key Stage 2, putting Allendale Primary School in the top 1% of primary schools in England.

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

#### **Allendale First School**

County Cllr Horncastle said that he could not yet provide an update other than the sale of the school is still a confidential matter between Northumberland County Council and the purchaser.

#### **Community speed gun**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the training required for the volunteer recruits to use the speed guns had been held up until *all* South Tynedale volunteers first complete the standard police forms.

#### **Drop kerbs and markings**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he could not provide an update from Neil Snowdon on formalising the existing drop kerbs with textured surfaces in the Market Square.

#### **Northumberland Local Plan**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that comments were invited during the six-week period of consultation after which the Plan would be inspected by government with the final plan in place by December 2019. There are 23 drop-in events taking place around the county, he said, including the one at Allendale Library.

#### **Pavement sweeping**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he would liaise with Local Services and ensure that the footpath from Thornley Gate to Mill Cottages is cleaned as soon as possible.

#### **Road surface problems from Round Meadows to The Crown, Catton**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was aware of the adhesion problem on this stretch of the road and that NCC's Highways department (Andy Oliver) has agreed to carry out works to re-plane and re-lay the road surface as a matter of priority and as soon as winter services work is complete.

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

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he was dealing with complaints about the granite setts, and in particular a formal complaint about the setts on Dene corner. He said that these setts are causing distress to a local family because of the noise and movement experienced when large and farm vehicles pass by. Co Cllr Horncastle would be meeting on site with Neil Snowdon, NCC's Highways Manager, to review the position of the setts. Cllr Quinn questioned the need for a *permanent* 20mph speed limit past the school and suggested that vehicle activated traffic signs (VATS) are a better option. Co Cllr Horncastle said that VATS are prohibitively expensive and would have to be paid for and maintained by the Parish Council, and that the County-wide approach is to adopt a 20mph limit in every village that has a school and/or hospital.

#### **Traffic speed surveys**

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he would share the summary of the recent speed survey with the Parish Council and that the data included average speeds at various times of the day.

#### **Winter gritting**

The Council reported to Co Cllr Horncastle that the winter gritting around the side roads this year had been excellent.

### **8) Grant Applications**

The Council discussed the applications for grants and made the following awards:

<b>Allendale Golf Club</b>	<b>£100</b>
<b>Allendale Pre-school Playgroup</b>	<b>£150</b>
<b>Allen Valleys Wildlife Group</b>	<b>£150</b>

### **9) Allendale Market Square**

#### **Footpath leaf clearance**

The Clerk to arrange for Practical Landscapes staff to carry out leaf clearance on and around the following footpaths in the areas that they didn't manage to get to on New Year's Eve: Shilburn Road, as far as Forstersteads: Peck Riding, from the 30mph sign to Peck Riding gate (approximately 400-500 metres): and Catton, the footpaths between the two speed activation signs.

#### **10) Correspondence**

##### **Mrs J A Angus, Keenley resident – parking concerns at Catton triangle**

The Clerk to forward Mrs Angus's letter to NCC's Highways Department in which she draws our attention to the cars parked around the triangular reservation in Catton. Mrs Angus is concerned about both the sightline to the right when approaching the junction from Carrshield, as well as the road direction signs being hidden by cars when approaching from Hexham.

##### **Carey Stuart, Allendale resident – granite setts causing disturbance to her family**

See 7 County Councillor update, Traffic calming past Allendale Primary School.

##### **Jenny Fairless, Catton resident – footpath clearance and poor condition of road signs**

The Clerk to let Ms Fairless know that the Council will arrange for Practical Landscapes to carry out footpath clearance between the two vehicle activation signs in Catton (see 9) Allendale Market Square above) and will take up the issue of the very poor condition of the road direction signs at the triangle with NCC's Highways Department (see Mrs Angus's correspondence above).

##### **Paula Walker, local resident – thank you for planting memorial tree**

To thank the Council, and especially Cllr Philipson, for arranging for the planting a silver birch tree in Allendale Cemetery in memory of her late husband, Keith Walker, for his contribution to the parish community.

##### **Tania Porteous, Engagement Officer, Healthwatch Northumberland**

The Clerk to share information about the health watch survey through the Parish Council's Facebook page and Allendale Area Notices.

##### **Anonymous complaint – concerns about dogs off their leads in Deneholme Wood**

Cllr Simmonds to raise the issue of dogs off their leads and the distress it causes some children and walkers with Christina John of Fawside Office. Cllr Galley to include a note in Hexham Courant Village Notes.

##### **Craig Atkinson, Allendale resident**

Mr Atkinson informed the Parish Council that Karbon Homes was almost ready to discuss the plans for the new Allenfields Play Area with local residents.

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

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

Bank balance as at **25 January 2019**

Treasurer's Account - **£ £57,586.88**

Bank balance as at **9 January 2019**

Business 30-Day Notice Account - **£ 5,231.18**

#### **12) Matters for next month's agenda - None**

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

**John Hill** to be co-opted as Parish Councillor.

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

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2019** in Allendale Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting ended at 9:59 pm.