

Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Thursday 12th January 2022 at 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall

Present: Cllr Simmonds (Chair), Beck, Coulson, Graham, Howard, Kirk, Philipson, Stevenson, Co Cllr Horncastle, and H Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Halliday, Swaile, Villiers-Stuart and White

2) Declarations of interest

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

[**Declarations of Interest \(new council 2022\) 0.pdf \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)**](#)

3) Planning Committee – planning applications (covered on 5th January Zoom meeting)

22/04347/FUL - Swinhope Row Allendale

The Council unanimously proposed **no objections** to the application as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings.

22/04462/FUL - 1 Denelands Allendale

The Council unanimously proposed **no objections** to the application as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings.

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

The Council discussed the planning appeal and unanimously agreed **no change** to its original recommendation (on 4th November 2021) in which it made no objections to the application, as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1 & 2: General Development Principles and Scale of Housing Development, despite having some concerns about the way the dwelling was to be built into the hillside and the potential impact on the highway.

The Council also discussed the Planning Officer's definition of a settlement in which she concluded that Sinderhope was *not* a settlement, and that the application site was therefore considered to be located within the open countryside. Whilst the Council acknowledged that it was difficult to define what constitutes a settlement, it agreed that the original intention of the parish council was to regard Sinderhope as a settlement, and that it would be seeking to make this clearer as part of its review of the ANDP.

4) Public participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 1st December 2022

Cllr Philipson agreed, and Cllr Howard seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Review

The Council would hold its first meeting to set about reviewing the ANDP with Sarah Brannigan and other representatives of Northumberland County Council on the 19th of January at 5:30pm.

Community Orchard

Cllr Beck said that she was happy to hear that Fawside had confirmed its intention to get the community orchard project off the ground and take the work forward.

Proposed bollards in front of the Co-op Shop

The Clerk said that the Highways Improvement Team had apologised that the design work had not progressed as quickly as expected and the target date had not been met. However, Richard McKenzie had confirmed that the project had been reallocated to a new designer and the Co-op had confirmed that a chap from NCC had visited the store to look at the feasibility of a dropped kerb and bollards.

Damaged pavement outside Post Office cash point machine, loose flagstones outside Bunkhouse and loose cobbles outside the Golden Lion

Cllr Graham apologised for the delay in speaking to Dave Greenwood who was prepared to carry out the work and he would give this priority following on from the meeting.

Bus shelters for Allendale and Catton

Co Cllr Horncastle confirmed that he would meet the costs of the bus shelters and Cllrs Graham and Stevenson said that they would hold a consultation with Catton residents to discuss a suitable design for the proposed new bus shelter in Catton.

Bus shelter for Allendale

The Clerk had confirmed to Cllrs Graham and Stevenson that **Chris Curtis** of Northumberland County Council's Strategic Transport and Employability Team had confirmed his willingness to meet with them to discuss the Council's proposal for a new location for the bus stop that was away from the Market Square.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Co Cllr Horncastle apologised for his absence at the November and December meetings, and he brought the Council up to date with developments at County Hall including:

- a) the appointment of a new permanent Chief Executive, Dr Helen Patterson and a new Chief Constable, Vanessa Jardine
- b) the £20m deficit faced at the start of the year had largely been met in spite of big increases in its electricity, gas, water, fuel, and insurance costs.
- c) the receipt of a good settlement from government
- d) cuts to high paid officers, no enforced staff redundancies, and no cuts to front line services
- e) some changes to planning charges and registry services to increase its revenue
- f) a contingency set aside for potential industrial action from the fire service
- g) a possible increase of 5% in council tax
- h) new equipment for the fire service including a high aerial platform and high spec drone camera
- i) working with Karbon Homes and Bernicia Homes to house refugees classed as homeless once their sponsorship had ended

8) Allotments Committee

The Clerk to work with the Allotments Committee on the meeting arrangements for its forthcoming community consultation on developing new allotments.

9) Cemetery Committee

The Council agreed to the Cemetery Committee's recommendation to install a wooden shed behind the Chapel of Rest, and to it obtaining costings from Henderson's of Acomb and A N Other supplier. The Cemetery Committee to consult the gravedigger on the design (access, siting, headroom, and size) and to arrange for Mark Armstrong to prepare a suitable base for the shed.

10) Rights of Way & Access Committee

Cllr Beck said that the Rights of Way & Access Committee had met (online) with representatives of Hexham Ramblers and North Pennines AONB earlier in the day. She said that they discussed how they might work together in getting off the ground, a scheme that supports landowners to carry out repairs on rights of way (RoW) that cross their land. The RoW Committee said it was keen to engage with local people who could

be more proactive in reporting problems on NCC's website, and to start raising awareness of the responsibilities of landowners to repair footpaths. After discussion the Council agreed to first meet with a member of NCC's Countryside and Green Spaces Team and find out how it could best support the parish in this work.

11) Towns & Villages Committee

There were no actions.

12) Correspondence

Annie Bishop – The Clerk confirmed that the Office of Guy Opperman MP was chasing up the issue of EE providing backup for the EE mast in Sinderhope. Cllr Philipson said that the High Forest Community Centre was also looking to buy a generator that EE could potentially tap into to keep the mast in use in the event of power failure.

Sarah Docchar – The Clerk to thank Sarah for her observations on parking in the square that had been noted and that would be considered when the parking arrangements were reviewed.

Charlotte Robson – see Community Orchard at 6 above.

Michael Appleton – The Council agreed that a formal Neighbourhood Watch scheme was unnecessary since the parish's observant residents already shared relevant information on local Facebook pages.

Julie Shirley – Cllr Coulson agreed to complete the online survey on engaging with young people on behalf of the Council.

Celia and Michael Carrington – The Council agreed to provide a letter supporting their application to farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) to fund repairs to their listed bastle and bastle derivative house, because of its importance to the local community in terms of its history and heritage.

Jenny Fairless – The Council agreed to meet the costs of a new roadside mirror at Batey Terrace to replace the current one that was in poor condition. Cllrs Graham and Stevenson to visit the site to work out what was needed to mount the new mirror.

13) Finance Committee

Accounts for payment

Cllr Stevenson proposed that the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Beck.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **19 December 2022 - £ 59,805.27**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 December 2022 - £ 16,446.72**

Finalise budget and 2023/2024 precept

Cllr Kirk proposed that the Council accept the draft budget and set the 2023/2024 Precept at **£41,000**, that was seconded by Cllr Coulson. The Council unanimously carried the motion.

Savings and investment options

The Council unanimously agreed to invest £30k now in a Lloyds 6-month fixed-term deposit account at 2.7% and look again at investing £30k in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund.

14) Matters for 2nd February 2023 agenda

Grant applications

15) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There was none.

16) Date of next Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **2nd February 2023** at 7pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall.