

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)
held on Thursday 3rd December 2020 at 7pm**

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

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Henderson

2) Planning Sub-Committee

Planning applications

20/03541/FUL – Land South of Catton Pumping Station

Cllr Simmonds proposed **to object** to the application with Cllr Crellin seconding this, as it was not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1: General Development Principles, paragraphs one and two (bullet point one); and 5: New build tourism accommodation, paragraphs two and four. This was unanimously carried by the Council.

20/03305/LBC – Meeting House Cottage, Bridge End, Allendale

Cllr Dunn proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding it, provided that the materials used were like for like, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

20/02759/FUL – Steelwood Cottage, Allendale

Cllr Dunn proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding it, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

20/03744/FUL – Land North Of Wentworth Riding, Wentworth Place, Allendale

Cllr Dunn proposed **to object** to the application with Cllr Crellin seconding it, as it was not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 1: General Development Principles, paragraph two (bullet point two), and this was unanimously carried by the Council, with the exception of Cllr Howard who abstained from the discussion and vote.

20/03528/FELTPO – Tree preservation order application, Allenheads

Cllr Crellin proposed **to support** the application with Cllr White seconding it and this 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

Paul Barber attended the meeting to join in the discussion about electric charge vehicles - see **11**) below. Neil Snowdon of Northumberland County Council's Highways Department attended the meeting to discuss the signage issues in Allendale – see item **6**) below.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5th November 2020

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Philipson seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2020 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Bus shelter for Catton

The Council discussed the proposed installation of a new bus shelter and agreed that it needed to take advice about a suitable design that was feasible for the location. The Finance Sub-Committee would take the costs into account when it met later in the month.

Honey fungus diseased tree on Bullring

The Council was seeking further advice about the mature tree that was suspected to have honey fungus and had appointed an arborist who would be surveying all the trees in the Village and Cemetery and providing a report.

Proposed signage improvements at B6295/B6303 junction in Allendale

Neil Snowdon attended the meeting to present his design team's proposals for new signage in and around the Bullring. The Council discussed the proposed improvements to the signage, and Neil Snowdon took on board its comments and said he would discuss them with his team, namely to: a) to look into the possibility of installing finger posts where possible as these were deemed less obtrusive and more in keeping with the conservation area; b) to review the height of the proposed signage so it was less obtrusive but remained compliant; and c) to review the need for signs 1 and 2 in the proposals. Neil also agreed to find out where his team were with the plans to install drop kerbs in the centre of the village.

Resurfacing of parking area adjacent to The Forge

The Council agreed to go ahead with the Tarmac-ing of the parking area adjacent to The Forge and accepted the quote from Coulson Construction Ltd.

Salt bin for Village Hall & Recreation Ground

The Clerk had written to Neighbourhood Services about buying a new green salt bin for Allendale Village Hall & Recreation Ground but not yet received a reply.

7) County Councillor update

Catton driving and parking conditions

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he had met with Neil Snowdon's line manager, Robin McCartney, NCC Highways Infrastructure Manager, specifically to look at the priority parking problems he had raised at the parish council's meeting on 1st October. Co Cllr Horncastle said that the meeting had been constructive with Robin McCartney agreeing to the following actions:

- a) To look at the possibility of reducing the speed limit through Catton to 20 mph.
- b) Acknowledging that parking on both sides of the road was problematic, he would consider using double yellow lines to prevent the parked cars being an obstruction that reduced visibility especially around the bus stop area.
- c) Aim to control the parking around Catton Lane Foot, that was preventing farm vehicles from getting up and down the lane, using suitable signage.
- d) Acknowledging the major issue with as many as seven cars being parked around Catton triangle reducing visibility at the junction, and asking his design team to consider suitable solutions to the problem, including replacing and raising the height of the signage.

Contacting Highways Programme Team

Co Cllr Horncastle reinforced the message sent to parish councils from Paul Jones, Service Director - Local Services that all correspondence concerning the Highway's Programme (road safety issues, minor improvements etc) should be sent to the team inbox at highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk.

This would improve efficiency and allow all correspondence to be captured centrally, ensuring it was logged, acknowledged and a timely response given.

8) Coronavirus matters

There was no new information to report this month.

9) Allendale Library and Allendale Village Hall

Following on from the public consultation of libraries in the county, and meetings with Alison Peadon, NCC Library Services Manager, Cllr Simmonds and Cllr Hill had been discussing using the Village Hall as a possible

venue for a library hub. They were looking at new arrangements for library services in Allendale as it was no longer economically viable for NCC to continue to maintain the library building with its two days/week service, neither was it a good use of its library stock. Cllr Hill said that the proposed new arrangements, that the trustees of the Village Hall were looking at, included: a) basing the library in one of the Village Hall rooms and keeping similar opening hours as to now; b) library services hosting weekly events in the main hall including storytelling; c) making books accessible at other times by shelving them in the foyer and using an honesty box; and d) library services hosting three or four major events each year in the main hall, for example, meet the author events. Cllr Hill and Simmonds emphasised that they were seeking to protect library services in the parish and that the proposed new arrangements, that were still at the ideas stage, would also benefit the Village Hall as it had lost many of its users in the last year. Cllr Simmonds said that library services in Northumberland had been exceptional throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She said that the way people used library services had changed, and that many readers now ordered books after browsing them online, and then collected them from the library van when it visited (on Tuesday morning in Allendale). She said other online services included [BorrowBox](#) providing free access to hundreds of eAudio and eBooks for children and adults; free access to thousands of magazines and newspapers from over 100 countries using an app called Press Reader; and, access to Ancestry at home for free.

<https://northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

10) Parish Councillor vacancy

The Clerk said that NCC's Democratic Services had confirmed that it had not received the sufficient number of requests to call a by election, and that Allendale Parish Council could go ahead and co-opt onto the Council as soon as practicably possible. Councillors discussed the pros and cons of co-opting now (with the constraints of COVID-19 restrictions in place), versus waiting until the May 2021 elections. Cllr Philipson proposed to co-opt reserve candidate Andrew Graham (from the selection process carried out in 2019) to join the Parish Council as councillor from 7th January 2021, with Cllr Howard seconding it, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

11) Electric Vehicle Charging in the Parish

Paul Barber attended the meeting to assist the parish council in making decisions around electrical vehicle charging for the parish and share his knowledge. The Council discussed the current electricity supply that was not designed to provide enough power to charge the multiple numbers of electric vehicles likely to be needing charging in future. It was agreed that it would be better to plan for the longer term and take advantage of government grants that were now available, and that would meet 75% of the capital costs of ensuring an adequate supply of electricity and the installation of charging points. The Council agreed to progress electric vehicle charging throughout the parish and set up a sub-committee/working group to oversee the work that would report to the parish council. Allendale Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if they wished to be part of the group and to invite other interested parties, including Peter Howarth. The Clerk had written to Northern Powergrid to ask for advice about increasing the power supply to Allendale Village to allow for the on-street charging of electric vehicles but not yet had a reply. The Clerk to include electric vehicle charging on the January 2021 agenda.

12) Towns & Villages Sub-Committee

Benches

The Council discussed the draft policy on memorial benches and agreed that it should not be too prescriptive about the materials used for benches when considering applications since both the materials and the design of benches would be approved by the Council prior to installation. The Council also agreed to appoint a contractor to refurbish and maintain the benches in future. The Finance Sub-Committee would take into account the costs of refurbishing and maintaining parish council owned benches when it met later in the month.

Isaacs's Well

Cllr Lee said that Roger Morris (the driving force behind Isaac's Tea Trail) had confirmed his interest in doing what he could to help progress making Isaac's Well and the area around it more of a feature in the village. Cllr Lee said that the restoration work could be divided between work for which grant funding could be used, for instance 'street furniture' such as an interpretation board and seating, and the cost of work that would need to be met by the parish council, such as the restoring the cobbles and installing natural stone flags and kerbs.

The Council discussed the best way to progress the work and agreed to setting up a working group of interested parties to oversee the work and for the Finance Sub-Committee to consider the costs associated with the work when it met later in the month.

Long Term Plan

Following on from her meeting on 24th November with Cllr Philipson and the Clerk, Cllr Dunn presented the main highlights that included: a) refurbishing the Chapel of Rest with help from the Allen Valleys Local History Group and the disposal of unwanted items and the rehousing of other items; b) David English's agreement to help the parish council undertake a formal review of Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan now that it had been in place for five years. The Clerk to include the review on the agenda for January 2021; and c) the help of Cllr Quinn in designing a questionnaire similar to the 2006 one that helped develop the parish plan.

13) Climate Action Allendale

There was no new information to report this month.

14) Correspondence

Paula Walker – The Council agreed to Paula Walker's request for the bench in the woodland area of the cemetery to be re-positioned along the wall that separates the road/car park area.

Martin Smith, The Bay Trees catering van – The Council acknowledged that street traders were permitted to trade on the highway provided that they had the correct licences in place, but advised that trading on a Wednesday in Allendale would be better all 'round since the King's Head already provided a takeaway service on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Maggie Keyte – The Chair agreed to write to Haydon Bridge High School asking who was responsible for the erroneous description of the school that appeared in the Times Educational Supplement.

15) Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **16th November 2020 - £ 57,363.35**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9th November 2020 - £ 5,235.42**

16) Matters for 7th January 2021 agenda

Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan

Electrical Vehicle Charging

Housing Survey

17) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There were none.

18) Date of next Parish Council Zoom teleconference

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

The meeting ended at 21:20