

Meeting of West Allen Parish Council
Thursday 1st December 2022 at 19:00 – Carrshield Village Hall

Present: Rowland Hull, David Adams, Helen Adams, Joanne Sutterby & NCC Cllr Colin Horncastle

Public attendees: Susie Stafford, Alwyn Woodcock & Emma Manuel

Apologies: Steve Agar & Lee Sutterby

- 1 The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting and agreed to act as Chair in Steve Agar's absence. She noted that email correspondence had been received from SA prior to the meeting, regarding some of the items on the agenda.

- The minutes of the last meeting held on 1st September 2022 were accepted as being correct.

- 2 **Matters arising** from previous meeting:

a) West Allen Parish Council Resilience Group update – Rowland Hull provided an update on the group's efforts so far. The group is still working on the strategic model of three 'hubs' within the Parish, with Ninebanks Church and Community Hall acting as 'Mother Hub', and Carrshield Village Hall and YHA Mohope (which is privately owned) as supporting hubs. It was noted that better communication was needed between the WAPCRG and the Whitfield with Ninebanks PCC who oversee Ninebanks Church & Community Hall. Rowland Hull will attend the next meeting of the Whitfield with Ninebanks PCC on 6th December 2022.

- The next key step is to develop a final resilience plan. The group has a draft version, but this requires more input from the three communities. RH expressed the need for an extra person from Carrshield to join the WAPCRG to ensure sufficient representation.

- It was also noted that formal links and a written agreement/permission will need to be obtained from each of the three premises in case an emergency situation arises in the future, where the premises will be required to provide local support as a 'hub'.

- Correspondence has been received from Northern Power Grid Foundation seeking further details about the cost of satellite phones, as per the initial grant application submitted. RH noted that Communications will be a big part of the resilience strategy -how do we keep key infrastructure going?

- The Clerk reported that 38 email addresses have been provided so far for the WAPCRG contact data base. Some of these however, are within the same household. There was some discussion about how to encourage more responses from the community, but it was also recognised that many people might not feel the need to sign up for such communications.

- Cllr Horncastle challenged the need for having three community 'hubs' within the West Allen Parish due to the proximity of Mohope to Ninebanks. He noted that Hexhamshire only has one 'hub' and it is a much bigger parish. His concern was that any future funding bid will be diluted if too many hubs require funding, and that there would be not enough money to cater for everything. RH responded that support for this model had already been given by individuals such as Helen Hinds at NCC and Guy Opperman MP.

- Alwyn Woodcock stated that defibrillators across the Parish are needed outside resilience strategy anyway. She was supportive of the idea of applying for everything, then getting something at the very least.

b) Speeding concerns in Ninebanks- The Clerk reported having communications with both NCC Highways and the Police on this matter. As the speed limit through Ninebanks is 60mph, the police would not be able to assist, as it is highly likely that most, if not all vehicles will be travelling under 60mph through the hamlet. It is also not a suitable location for the mobile speed camera van. The painting of 'Slow' signs on the road coming into Ninebanks was added as a fourth priority to the Local Transport Plan 2023-24 and submitted to NCC after concerns expressed by a local resident, who had been involved in an RTC in Ninebanks. After recent email communication with the Highways Improvement Team, the Slow signs have now been painted. A request has also been made for a traffic monitoring survey to be conducted in Ninebanks. Data provided will show number of vehicles using the road and the speed of all traffic.

c) Tree survey- ash die back disease – The Clerk and David Adams have been in communication with the Great Northumberland Forest scheme. As the WAPC does not own any land, any future replanting would need to be done on roadside verges, which would require extensive mapping and permission from NCC. Cllr Horncastle noted that NCC estimates that up to 6 million ash trees in Northumberland will need to be felled as they are over hanging highways, powerlines and so on. They are not currently looking to replant, but might be in the near

future due to the large number of trees that will be lost. It was decided by Parish Councillors in attendance to put ash tree surveying and mapping within the West Allen on hold.

d) 4X4 vehicles using By way Open to All Traffic (BOAT)- The Clerk reported correspondence with the Community Policing Team on this matter. The responsibility for the upkeep of BOAT’s falls jointly to the Highways Dept. and the landowner. Suitable advice was provided by the Police, which in turn was verbally passed to Thomas Hall who had raised concerns.

3 Additional Correspondence:

a) Defibrillator for Carrshield Village Hall – Emma Manuel addressed the council and reported the need for some sort of defibrillator within the Carrshield community due to location and the time it would take for an emergency response to arrive. A survey was sent to all Carrshield residents asking for opinions in relation to a defibrillator. The response rate wasn’t particularly high, however the ones returned were all positive. Defibrillators need to be kept in a cabinet and require an electricity supply- so Carrshield Hall would be a good venue. Also, the area in Carrshield where a former BT phonebox was may access to an electric supply but, should the electricity go off in future, siting it here could be problematic. It was stressed that the need for a defibrillator to be a parish wide issue, not just a village hall issue.

- Helen Adams noted previous difficulties in obtaining a code to open the existing defibrillator box in Ninebanks, but has been assured that this problem has now been resolved.

- Cllr Horcastle made the offer to help purchase 2 defibrillators- one for Mohope and one for Carrshield, through the ‘Members Local Improvement Scheme’. He explained that he would need a minimum of two quotes before defibrillators could be purchased, along with a written survey of need and a written rationale. All those present expressed gratitude for Cllr Horncastle’s support.

b) Precept for 2023/24 – The precept for 2021-22 is currently £850. Cllr Horncastle noted that many local and parish councils have put up precepts in response to cost of living crisis and the expected squeeze on County Council budgets. After discussing current annual PC expenditure and possible future cost in relation to resilience planning, it was suggested that the precept could be increased by 10% to £935.

c) Modification order (no.8) 2022 to Public Bridleway no. 26- The Clerk reported having received an official map modification order from NCC in September 2022 to inform the PC of changes to a public bridleway within the parish. This was circulated to all councillors at the time and no issues were reported.

d) Request for donation- Great North Air Ambulance- No decision was made and this will be put back on the agenda for the next parish meeting.

4 Planning: Applications can be viewed at:

<http://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications>

Applicant:	Address:	Details:	Application no:
Mr & Mrs Wilson	Spartywell, Ninebanks	Retrospective – siting of caravan, Change of use from agricultural to temporary short term residential use for family, friends and farm help.	22/00320/FUL Registered- Pending
Mr Joseph Colin Reed	Land South West of Woodbine Cottage, Carrshield	Restore and re-build existing derelict dwellings to create single dwelling house with attached holiday-let and erection of ancillary workshop/agricultural storage building. APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990	21/03532/FUL Refused originally Appealing decision
Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership	Barney Craig Mineshop,	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application	22/02432/VARYCO Permission Granted

	Carrshield NE47 8AF	17/02920/FUL to replace metal roofing sheets with an insulated metal roofing sheet.	
Stuart Ian Donald & Natasha Ninnim	Whiteley Shield Chapel, Allendale	Listed Building Consent: Resubmission - Conversion of former Methodist chapel to provide 1no. residential dwelling (Use ClassC3) with associated parking and landscaping	22/03935/LBC Registered- Pending
Mr Young	School House, Ninebanks NE47 8DB	Listed building consent for replacement of decayed wood dormer window frames	22/03439/LBC Registered- Pending

No points were raised on any of the current planning applications or decisions.

5 Any other Business:

a) Creation of a new mandate for Parish Council bank account & change of signatories- The existing Parish Council bank mandate at HSBC is fully outdated. All three individuals listed with HSBC as signatories – Alan Greaves, Laurence Ian Reed and Barbara Ingman (who is also authorised to act on behalf of the council) are no longer involved with the WAPC. Therefore, it was decided that Steve Agar, Helen Adams and Joanne Sutterby would be named on the mandate as being able to act on behalf of the council with HSBC, both individually or collectively. This is to help ‘future proof’ the mandate. These three individuals will also act as signatories, as all currently have access to the PC account via HSBC online business banking.

b) New noticeboard – Mohope now has its own Parish Council noticeboard next to the YHA. Thanks were expressed to Pauline Elliott from the YHA for donating the wooden noticeboard, to Rowland Hull for sprucing it up and to David Adams for purchasing the posts and postfix required on behalf of the PC. The receipt for purchase of these items was £53.78, which will be reimbursed to DA by the PC.

- The Clerk also reported that the existing noticeboard in Ninebanks has been fully repaired and modified by Lee Sutterby, making it far more robust and professional in appearance. The Clerk has previously submitted receipts for £14.20 for a cork sheet & £9 for hardboard, which have been reimbursed by the PC.

b) Complaint against B4RN in relation to breach of contracts and T&C- The PC has been kept updated on all official correspondence on this matter. Whilst the most recent correspondence submitted by Lis Dales was noted, it was agreed that this is a commercial contract matter between B4RN subscribers and B4RN rather than an issue that affects the community as a whole. The council will keep a watching brief and may take action if the issue causes particular direct hardship to any individuals who would be unable to find an alternative provider at significantly less cost.

6 Date and times of next meetings – Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 19:00- Ninebanks Church & Community Hall