

**Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 6th July 2023 at 7pm
at Allendale Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Philipson (Chair), Beck, Coulson, Graham, Halliday, Kirk, Simmonds, Swaile (Vice-Chair), White and H Newsome (Clerk).

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Henderson, Howard and Villiers-Stuart and County Cllr Horncastle sent their apologies prior to the meeting.

2) Declarations of interest Allendale May Fair Committee

Cllr Kirk declared an interest in Higher Ground and no further interest in Allendale May Fair Committee. See APC's website for a full list:

[Declarations of Interest \(new council 2022\) 0.pdf \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](https://northumberlandparishes.uk/Declarations%20of%20Interest%20(new%20council%202022)%20%20.0.pdf)

3) Planning Committee – planning applications

23/01803/FUL - Ashleigh Lodge, Thornley Gate Allendale

Cllr Graham proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

23/02254/LBC - Post Office, Sparty Lea

Cllr Kirk proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Simmonds seconding this and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

4) Public participation

Batey Terrace junction, Catton

There were three members of the public in attendance, including Heather Doody who described the dangers of trying to exit the Batey Terrace junction in Catton and suggest a way of making it safer. After discussion, the Council suggested that Heather share her ideas directly with Co Cllr Horncastle, by joining him when he was to meet with a representative of Highways the following week to discuss general road safety issues throughout Catton. The Council also agreed to include improving the visibility of drivers exiting Batey Terrace as one of the three priorities for the 2023/2024 Local Transport Plan (LTP) – see 11 below.

Report a problem by using Fix My Street

Two residents from Catton informed the council that the 30mph speed sign on the left when entering the village was badly bent and could not be seen easily. The Clerk said that Highways issues like this were the responsibility of Northumberland County Council and should be logged on its Fix My Street site: <https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/>. She said that anyone could report a problem online to NCC, and report anonymously too, and that she had recently shared this information on the parish council's Facebook page.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 1st June 2023

Cllr Simmonds agreed, and Cllr Graham seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Review update

AECOM had now published the final version of the Housing Needs Assessment and NCC's Sarah Brannigan had met with her colleagues to look at the updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and discuss housing and neighbourhood planning in Allendale. Cllr Philipson said that the next step would

be for the Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Review Committee to meet to discuss next steps. The Clerk agreed to share all the relevant documents with the committee and Cllr Swaile would arrange a date for the meeting.

Proposed new waste bin for the junction at Splitty Lane

Cllr Philipson said that he would need to look again at a location for the proposed new bin to be situated close to the junction at Splitty Lane, as there was a ditch alongside the road making the original proposed site unsuitable.

Proposed new waste bin for the junction at Scotch Hall

Cllr Philipson confirmed that whilst a suitable location for the proposed new bin to be installed close to the junction at Scotch Hall had been agreed to, Neighbourhood Services had not yet installed the bin.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Co Cllr Colin Horncastle had sent his apologies prior to the meeting.

8) Allotments Committee

There were none.

9) Cemetery Committee

Cemetery wall repairs

The Council reviewed the estimates that it had received to rebuild the Cemetery wall by the layby and Cllr Kirk proposed to accept the quote from Alan Murray, with Cllr Beck seconding this, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council. The Council further agreed to buy the extra salvaged stone from MKM's that would be needed to complete the job.

New waste bin for the Cemetery

The Council agreed to buy a second waste bin to be replace the wire basket one located near the water tap. This would mean that after rubbish bin collection days Melvin could move the emptied bin in the layby to the area next to the water tap and move the used bin by the water tap to the layby. The Council agreed that swapping the bins around each fortnight should manage the volume of waste better. The Clerk to order a new (recycled) waste bin from NCC.

Tidy up of Cemetery layby

Cllr Philipson reported fly tipping in the Cemetery layby and said that he and Cllr Howard had now removed the soil that had been dumped there. He also thanked Cllr Howard for spraying the weeds around the layby.

10) Rights of Way & Access Committee

The future of footpath maintenance in the parish update

- a) Improving the condition of the footpaths continued to be a challenge due to a lack of staff (only four officers for the whole of Northumberland).
- b) The work Hexham Ramblers' did on the path toward Pia Troon, unfortunately did not "fix the steps". The removal of overgrowth vegetation exposed the need for the steps to be renewed and repaired. Although, undoubtedly the work had made the path up/down the bank more accessible to walkers.
- c) NCC's Countryside Officer, Duncan Lovatt had confirmed that he was working with the Tyne Rivers Trust to come up with a plan for works to repair the bankside and footpath from the sewerage works that runs alongside the river in a northerly direction. In the meantime, the footpath would continue to be closed.
- d) NCC had made it easier for anyone to report problems (and easier for NCC to deal with them) including rights of way issues by using the Fix My Streets reporting tool:
<https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/>

11) Towns & Villages Committee

Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2024/2025 feedback and priorities for 2023/2024

The Council agreed that the **three priorities for 2024/2025** should be:

- 1) To extend the 30 mph speed limit from Catton Junction (past Station Garage, Allendale Sports Club and Allen Mill Cottages) to Thornley Gate (Five Lane Ends) and continue (on the B6295) to the 20 mph speed limit on The Peth, Allendale.
- 2) To reduce the speed limit through Catton from 30mph to 20mph.
- 3) To improve the visibility for drivers exiting the Batey Terrace junction in Catton in view of the several near misses, with the latest being a cyclist.

Relocation of bus stop in Allendale

Richard McKenzie from NCC's Highways Team had confirmed that he would arrange for the new bus stops to be installed in Allendale now that Chris Curtis, from NCC's Strategic Transport and Employability Team, had confirmed that the bus operator Go North East were happy for the bus stop in Allendale Market Place to move to the main road. All parties had agreed that as well as improving safety, the move to the main road would save time, which would in turn help to improve the punctuality and reliability of the service. The Council agreed to install a bus shelter on the north side only in view of the very few people boarding southbound journeys (often an average of less than one a day) and request that Go North East to schedule buses to dwell for a couple of minutes to allow enough time for people to safely cross the road from the shelter if the weather was bad. The Council also agreed in principle to install seating at both bus stops once the new bus stops had been installed. Although NCC had given no indication of timescales, Allendale Parish Council acknowledged that, following on from its community consultation in June 2022, it had done everything that it could do to bring about the much needed change.

RoSPA annual inspections

Allenfields play area

Cllr Graham to arrange for turf to be laid in the autumn, and Cllrs Philipson and Howard to monitor and sand back any splintered edges on the timber frames.

Denefields play area

Cllr Graham to arrange for Mark Armstrong to make level the steps up to the play frame.

12) Correspondence

Mrs Alison Hawkins, Headteacher, Allendale Primary School – The Clerk to contact NCC's Strategic Estates Manager, Mike Robbins, to find out what has been done to clean up the premises including the graffiti.

Mary Kinver – After further discussion the view of councillors was that the wall referred to was not the responsibility of Allendale Parish Council.

Catton residents (Jenny Fairless, Heather Doody, Rebecca Woodhouse, Caroline Mann, and Lorna Hepple) - The Council discussed the concerns that Catton residents had raised concerning traffic safety issues throughout the village including, the poor visibility at the Batey Terrace junction, the speeding vehicles through the village and parked cars on the main road causing a hazard to oncoming traffic and blocking pavements. Whilst it acknowledged that Co Cllr Horncastle would be meeting with a Highways representative the following week to discuss what could be done to improve road safety in Catton it also agreed to include reducing the speed limit to 20mph and improving the visibility at Batey Terrace as two of the three priorities for the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2024/2025 (see 11 above). The Council also acknowledged that it had agreed to meet the costs of a new roadside mirror at Batey Terrace to replace the current one that was in poor condition (see also Public Participation above).

Allendale residents (Julie and Ian Robson, Christina John, Carol Davison, Valeria Dunn and Mandy Charlton)

The Council discussed the concerns that Allendale residents had raised concerning the general upkeep of the village, and in particular the lack of weed management on the footpaths, and grass cuttings left, and agreed to the following actions:

- a) Cllrs Graham and Philipson to identify with Hilton Graham the areas in the centre of the village that he should tidy up including removing the leafy growth from the base of the trees opposite Hotspur and Selah House.
- b) The parish council to continue to leave grass cuttings since collecting them would generate a massive volume of cuttings to be disposed of, and that would be prohibitively expensive requiring a second vehicle and person to carry out the work. The council said that leaving the cuttings also preserved the nitrogen in the grass.
- c) The parish council to encourage concerned residents to report problems including abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, fly tipping, blocked or damaged drains, damaged footpaths, and footpath obstructions directly to Northumberland County Council by using the Fix My Streets reporting tool: <https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/>
- d) The parish council to include on the October 2023 agenda an item to discuss making a wider plan for the environment to include the maintenance of the centre of Allendale.

Joan Morgan, Allendale resident

Cllr Graham to let Alen Valleys Local History Group's Valeria Dunn know that Joan Morgan would like to continue with the work to restore the Cemetery's Chapel of Rest.

13) Finance Committee

Accounts for payment/bank reconciliation

Cllr Kirk proposed that the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Graham.

Treasurer's Account bank balance as of June 2023	£ 3,481.81
Business 30-Day Notice Account bank balance as of June 2023	£16,500.18
Fixed Term Deposit bank balance as of 30 th June 2023	£30,000
Public sector Deposit Fund of CCL bank balance as of 30 th June 2023	£30,000

The Finance Committee to agree on how best to manage cash flow over the next few months.

14) Matters for 1st June 2023 agenda.

None as yet.

15) Confidential agenda item (for Council only)

There was one item.

16) Date of next Parish Council

The next monthly Parish Council meeting would take place on **7th September 2023** at 7pm at Allendale Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 21:22