

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council
held in Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 2nd November 2017**

Present: Councillors Philipson (Chair), Crellin (Vice Chair), Baxter, Dunn, Galley, Henderson, Lee, Quinn, Sandison & Simmonds
Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

County Councillor Horncastle
Cllrs: Howard & Walter

2) Introduction and welcome to new Councillors

The Chair gave a warm welcome to Cllr Lindsay Baxter and Cllr Dani Henderson to their first meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

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
Cllr Dunn declared an interest in Allendale Primary School, Allendale Sports Club & Allendale Golf Club
Cllr Henderson declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society, Allendale Horticulture 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 & AONB Heritage Project Board

4) Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th October 2017

The Chair proposed and Cllr Simmonds seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

The John Wesley plaque has been found. Linda Becks had given it to Evelyn Charlton for safekeeping.

Cllr Lee said that the Hexham Courant had reported that the last of the Bright Tribe governors had now resigned from Haydon Bridge High School's executive board, and that three governors from Sir Thomas More School in Blaydon are getting more involved with the school. Cllr Lee said that it would be helpful if the school were to use the governance section of the school website to update parents on these developments, and that it would also be useful to have an update from County Cllr Horncastle.

The Clerk was reminded to order a new waste bin to replace the damaged one off the Peth on the riverside path. Clerk to arrange delivery to Chair's home.

7) County Councillor update

County Cllr Horncastle was not in attendance.

8) Cemetery

The Councillors discussed issues affecting the management of the cemetery and the Chair agreed to arrange a site meeting with the Cemetery Sub-committee. There are a number of concerns that warrant attention including:

- Reviewing how the woodland burial area is managed and finding a different approach to tree planting and one that is in keeping with the older area
- Matching the records of graves with the headstones as there are some inaccuracies that need investigating
- Inspecting the graves that are sinking and seeking professional advice about how to level these out
- Checking the trees and over-hanging branches for safety

The following actions were agreed to:

- a) The Chair to arrange a site meeting of the Cemetery Sub-committee (Cllrs Crellin, Howard, Simmonds & White).
- b) Cllr Simmonds to talk to North Pennines AONB office about the list of approved species and whether more species can be added to the list.
- c) The Chair and Cllr Simmonds to meet with Penny Little to better understand her concerns about the headstones and the scale of the problem.
- d) The Chair to remind Cllr Howard to check the trees and over-hanging branches for safety, and get a concrete mix spec for the concrete base to set headstones on from George and John Little.
- e) The Clerk to ensure, for health & safety reasons that any private suppliers wishing to carry out work in the cemetery should first inform and request the permission of the Parish Council.
- f) The Parish Council was reminded that family members take responsibility for their family graves, and are advised to lay down headstones if they are in danger of falling.

9) Parish Council vacancies – co-option

There are no more vacancies now that Cllr Lindsay Baxter and Cllr Dani Henderson have joined the Parish Council.

10) Allendale Market Square

The Chair is liaising with Northern Powergrid who have plans to underground the electric cables in the centre of Allendale, although these plans have not yet been released from Northern Powergrid's legal team. The Chair has made Northumberland County Council aware of this in view of the forthcoming improved street lighting. He will also check with Simon Wilson of North Pennines AONB as he may have sight of a coordinated plan.

Cllr Dunn suggested in the meantime that arrangements are made to fill in the potholes near the Dale Hotel to avoid them filling with water and freezing. The Chair agreed to ask Cllr Howard to carry out the work using a tractor bucketful of 'hogging'.

Cllr Dunn suggested that we 'book in' with Malcolm Aitchison now so that he does the 'tidying up' in the village during June to avoid it not being completed because of other work taking priority. The Council agreed to Cllr Dunn's suggestion to ask Malcolm to make up the flower tubs again next year giving him plenty of notice. The Chair to contact Malcolm.

The Councillors discussed the signage around the village and agreed that it was looking shabby and generally in a poor condition. The Clerk to follow up on the following actions that were agreed:

- a) Now that a new sign has been installed at the entrance to Allendale (from Allenheads direction) the Clerk to make arrangements to have the old sign sawn off at ground level.
- b) Clerk to check with County Cllr Colin Horncastle and Northumberland County Council what arrangements can be put in place to have the signage cleaned.
- c) Clerk to ask Northumberland County Council to review the position of the signs on the Bullring which are so low down they can't be seen.
- d) Clerk to note that Neil Snowdon has arranged for the old school sign to be removed and replaced with a new one

11) Correspondence

Cemetery Bin – The Council agreed to take up Northumberland County Council Recycling Officer's suggestion for the crew to monitor the situation and provide feedback before the Council orders a second landfill bin. A second-hand 240 litre bin costs £21 at present. Clerk to inform NCC.

Street lighting modernisation project update – Galliford Try (GT) is carrying out the project but their main contractor for electrical and civil engineering works has gone into

administration and GT are re-procuring a new sub-contractor. They are hoping to re-commence in mid to late November when NCC hope that information on timescale for Allendale will be known and circulated.

New Partnership for Bus Information between Northumberland Parish and Town Councils – The Council agreed to work with Northumberland County Council to improve the provision of up to date and accurate information regarding bus times. The Clerk to inform NCC that Allendale Parish are interested in being a pilot for this scheme.

Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter – Northumberland County Council are extending their monthly Neighbourhood Planning Newsletter to include Parish Councils. The Clerk to circulate to the full Parish each month.

Practical Landscapes – The Parish agreed that Mel should continue to cut the grass and he is keen to keep the role. The Chair will meet him in a few weeks. The Councillors discussed how best to keep the footpaths clear of weeds and leaves as the work done by Northumberland County Council is not sufficient to keep on top of what is needed. Clerk to include an item on the next agenda with a view to inviting Practical Landscapes to provide a quote for the work.

Slee Blackwell Solicitors – Correspondence about an accident at the Recreation Park in August 2017 and public liability claim was referred to Allendale Village Hall & Recreation Ground.

Office of Guy Opperman – Correspondence from Russell Handcock concerning speeding on Station Road. Clerk to respond to Office of Guy Opperman.

Allen Valleys Local History Group – The Council agreed to hold funds if the Group ever winds up as long as it is not accepting any liability. Cllr Dunn to check this and the arrangements for holding archive material in this event.

Allendale Village Hall & Recreation Ground – thanked the Parish Council for its generous donation of £500 towards the purchase of a new projector and audio system.

Garden Allotment at Allenfields – Clerk to write to garden allotment applicant saying that she would be put on the list and notified as soon as one became available.

Election Recharges – The Parish Council noted that no election recharges are due so these do not need to be factored into 2018/2019 budget planning.

RRL Tilley & L Brennan – The Parish noted the letter from RRL Tilley and L Brennan to the Chairman and CEO of Northumberland County Council concerning Vehicle Activated Traffic Signals (VATS). Cllr Galley proposed, and Cllr Sandison seconded that RRL Tilley and L Brennan pursue their concerns with County Cllr Horncastle and Northumberland County Council.

12) Accounts for Payment

R Ford	£55
Northumberland County Council (PC loan)	£1,456.80
SH Newsome (14 – 31 October 2017)	£200
Howard Dockray & Son (diesel)	£42.84
Howard Dockray & Son (labour and machine hire)	£468
Geoff Lee	£18.32

Income received

Cemetery	£300
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Cemetery	£300

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

Bank balances as at 31st October 2017

Treasurer's Account - **£56,663.91**

Business 30 Day Notice Account - **£5,227.91**

13) Matters for next month's agenda

Footpath Maintenance
Finance

Actions for Clerk

Clerk to write to John Foster at Overstone Home, Elvaston Road, Hexham thanking him for all his work sweeping leaves and generally keeping the Deneholme corner of the road so smart and tidy.

Cllr Sandison informed the Parish of the damage to the Allendale Parish noticeboard. Chair and Clerk to investigate and check what is needed to repair it.

After discussion, the Parish agreed to continue to view planning applications at the Fawside Office rather than at the Library. The Clerk to arrange for these to be made available from 10am until 1pm on Tuesdays (as was the arrangement with the Library).

Clerk to check with David English at Northumberland County Council what the mechanism is for making amendments to Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan should the Parish wish to do this during the life of the Plan (2015 – 2031).

The meeting ended at 9pm