

Minutes of the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council
Thursday 1st September 2022 at 19:00 - Ninebanks Church and Community Hall

Present: Steve Agar (Chair), Rowland Hull, Helen Adams, David Adams and Lee Sutterby

Apologies: Cllr Colin Horncastle

- 1 **Welcome** and minutes of meeting held on 9th June 2022. Minutes were Approved.
- 2 **Matters arising** from previous meeting:
 - a) *Local Transport Plan consultation 2023-24* – The Clerk reported that the West Allen Parish Council’s top priorities for the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2023-24 had been submitted to NCC on 3/7/22. The top priorities were:
 - Resurface SCHOOL BANK to WARD WAY – Ninebanks. This is the **top priority** for the Parish Council as sections of the carriageway are very badly degraded, particularly near to Sparty Well. Patching and basic maintenance of the carriageway will not solve the issue- this can only be done through resurfacing.
 - Resurface C297 COALCLEUGH TOWARDS SWINHOPE BRIDGE.
 - Repair and prevent water seepage on LEADGATE BANK and resurface damaged road surface on Northern approach to Leadgate Bank.
 - Provision of **‘SLOW’ signs** painted on the carriage way on BOTH entrances to the hamlet of Ninebanks. This was added as a fourth priority after email correspondence with an officer from the Highways Improvements Team, due to it being a different part of the programme to road maintenance.
 - b) *Highways update and speeding concerns in Ninebanks* – The Clerk reported that since priorities for the LTP had been submitted to NCC, Highways maintenance teams had paid several visits to the area to ‘patch’ the carriageway on sections highlighted as priorities. Whilst the area near to Sparty Well has been improved in the short term, the Council will continue to push for full resurfacing of this section of carriageway.
 - Potholes have also been filled across the Parish after being reported directly via NCC website. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting potholes, using the ‘What3Words’ website to obtain an exact location.
 - The section of road on C297 from Coalcleugh is due to be patched with expected work dates from 01/09/22 to 09/09/22.
 - Correspondence has also been received from Highways in relation to water seepage on Leadgate Bank. As it was dry when the inspection occurred, the highways officer was unable to identify the cause of the problem. Lee Sutterby agreed to take photos of any key problem areas within the Parish after a prolonged period of rain, to identify areas requiring maintenance and drainage work.
 - As no further update had been received relating to the provision of ‘Slow’ signs in Ninebanks, the Clerk will make additional enquiries with Highways Dept at NCC.
 - c) *Parish Council action relating to community resilience survey*- The Chair thanked Rowland Hull for taking a lead on behalf of the Parish Council, in working with local individuals who instigated and co-ordinated the distribution and collation of the Resilience Surveys. Rowland then provided an over-view of the progress made by the newly formed **West Allen Parish Council Resilience Group**. The object is really to establish communication with the whole parish, to gain contact details for all residents who would be interested in knowing about the resilience plan. The group will be meeting with Nigel Fisher- Civil Contingencies Officer from NCC on 28th September. Rowland handed out a draft letter for local residents, to give parish councillors a flavour of the content. It is intended that this will be sent out to all residents via mail shot in the future. Parish Councillors unanimously supported the concept and content of this letter, but made suggestions to add ‘opt-in or out’ to letter, to generate more responses. Also, that the Parish Council website could be added to letter. The Clerk to Parish Council will collate all eventual responses- either by post or email and create a database, which will be held in line with GDPR.

Rowland noted that David Manson will be conducting an audit of resources required within a community resilience hub. He is using Ninebanks Hall as a model, however the initial hope is to create 3 resilience centres- Carrshield, Mohope and Ninebanks. However, this will need to be discussed further with Nigel Fisher from NCC. Discussion was also had regarding the resilience grant funding now available from the Northern Power Grid Foundation. The Chair suggested contacting Northern Power Grid to register an interest, as the Parish Council will be applying for some grant funding in future.

d) *Ash dieback disease*- Correspondence has been made with a Communities Advisor from The Great Northumberland Forest, in relation to options for future tree planting in response to ash dieback disease. The issue here is that the Parish Council does not own any land and therefore, would only be able to plant trees on roadside verges, with permission from NCC. The Great Northumberland Forest could help the Parish Council to access grants for the purchase of trees, however this would require mapping of all potential roadside verges within the parish, noting where existing ash trees are growing and to then approach NCC for permission to replant. David Adams spoke about how ash die back and the subsequent felling of very diseased trees, will affect the landscape of the parish in the future. He noted that planting on roadside verges is not without issues, as NCC might be wary of allowing planting, as the trees will then likely become their responsibility to maintain in future. Also verge cutting might destroy young saplings. It was decided that the Clerk will contact NCC to see whether there is a long-term strategy for replanting trees within Northumberland due to ash die back. Once this is established, then contact can once again be made with The Great Northumberland Forest to see about mapping, permissions, grants etc.

e) *Promotion of Parish Council website*- The Clerk noted that the Parish Council website is now being regularly updated and that a poster advertising the website and work of the PC has been added to the notice boards in both Ninebanks and Carrshield. A message regarding the website along with a link, had been recently added to the 'Ninebanks Neighbours' What's App Group. Looking at quarterly website analytics, this generated an increase in website users. In March 2022 there were only 4 users and in June 2022 this had increased to 20 users. However, as Councillors acknowledged, this is still only a small number of local residents who are currently accessing the website. It is hoped that the existence of the parish Council website will be promoted within the letter to all residents regarding the Resilience Group.

3 Additional Correspondence:

a) *Sport Tynedale – request for donation*. Councillors decided not to support Sport Tynedale with a financial donation. The Clerk will respond to Sport Tynedale.

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
Dr Liz McNeil Grist	Bog Head Allendale Hexham Northumberland NE47 8DD	Listed Building Consent to remove existing salvaged stone slates (approximately 80%) and re-roofing with improved verge detail (Refer to Building Survey dated August 2020)	22/00646/LBC 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 <i>The West Allen Parish Council previously made comments on this application and has nothing further to add.</i>	21/03532/FUL Refused originally Appealing decision

Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership	Barney Craig Mineshop, Carrshield NE47 8AF	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application 17/02920/FUL to replace metal roofing sheets with an insulated metal roofing sheet.	22/02432/VARYCO Registered-Pending
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5 Any other Business:

Helen Adams raised two points on behalf of resident Thomas Hall:

- a)** Thomas asked the PC whether the derelict bench near to Beech Cottage in Ninebanks can be replaced with a new one, in memorial to his daughter Danielle. The Parish Council supported this, however feel it is not a Parish Council matter as it is not on land owned by the PC. It is thought the land could belong to Whitfield Estate. Once the bench is replaced, it was suggested that the existing bench plaque- 1977 Jubilee School, to be kept by PC.
- b)** Off-road vehicles are travelling across a by-way and subsequent farm land, without closing gates and causing damage to the by-way and land. The Chair spoke of completing an AONB survey relating to off-roading and the hope of Parish Councils getting more local powers, but nothing has come of this yet. Unfortunately, West Allen Parish Council currently has no power on this matter. However, the Clerk will make contact with Cllr Horncastle to inform him of the issues and will also contact the community team at Northumbria Police to ask for advice.

6 Date and times of next meetings – Thursday 1st December 2022 at 19:00- Carrshield Village Hall- Clerk to book venue.