

Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Thursday 3rd February 2022 at 7pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall

Present: Cllr Simmonds (Vice Chair), Councillors Graham, Henderson, Howard, Philipson & White
Co Cllr Colin Horncastle and H Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

There were none.

2) Planning Committee – planning applications

22/00079/REM - Land West Of Lea Hall Cottage Splitty Lane Catton

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

22/00220/FUL 7 Allenfields Allendale

Cllr Howard proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr White seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Council.

3) Declarations of Interest

There were no changes; see APC's website for full list:

[Links | Allendale Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](http://northumberlandparishes.uk)

4) Public participation

There were two members of the public in attendance.

Affordable housing

See item 7) Co Cllr Horncastle update below.

Valeria Dunn raised some issues including the Chapel of Rest - see items 6), 8) and 10) below.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 18th January 2022

Cllr Philipson proposed, and Cllr Howard seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan review

Responding to Valeria Dunn's request for an update on progress made on the review of Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan, Cllr Simmonds said that the meeting to discuss this in January had been postponed due to COVID concerns at the time. Cllr Simmonds said that the next step would be to take a detailed look at the plan and the extent to which it had met its objectives, and she suggested waiting until a few more councillors were recruited before doing this.

Cobble setts in the Market Place

Ernie Coulson of Coulson Construction Ltd had confirmed that the remedial work to carry out a programme of corrective work to the cobbles would begin on Monday, 6th February.

Councillor recruitment

The Clerk was asked to post a reminder on Facebook of the closing date for receiving expressions of interest in becoming a parish councillor which was Friday, 11th February.

Parking of camper vans in the Allendale village

The Clerk gave an update on helpful conversations that she had had with A/Sergeant Auriol Bruce of Northumbria Police's Neighbourhood team, and Northumberland County Council's Enforcement Officer, Paul Turnbull, concerning the status of the Allendale Village Green in relation to parking. She said that she

was waiting for further information from NCC's Principal Solicitor, Helen Lancaster and from Corbridge Parish Council's Clerk, Mandy Senior that she would share with the council shortly, and so that it could agree on its plan for improving the parking arrangements in the village.

Request to support installing bollards in front of the Co-op Shop

The Clerk said that she had put Richard Mackenzie from Highways in touch with the Co-op to begin discussions about the design for the proposed installation of bollards.

Tree guards for new saplings (tree planting scheme)

The Council agreed for Cllr Philipson to buy three new narrow steel galvanised tree guards for the three new saplings in the village (store bank, library and near the Glendinning war memorial) and use the larger guard (previously used on the Bull Ring) for the sapling on the Peth.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Budget cuts

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the biggest issue that NCC were dealing with was finding savings from its budget that had been cut by £9 million, and that council tax would go up by 2% . He said that there would be no cuts to any of the services and no redundancies, and that savings would be found by doing things differently and more efficiently and introducing charging for some items not previously charged for.

Northumberland Local Plan

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the new Local Plan had been finally passed and had now replaced all the previous district plans. He said that the whole planning process was expected to speed up now that the whole county was working to one unified plan.

Affordable housing in Allendale Parish

Co Cllr Horncastle said that he recognised there was a massive need for more affordable housing in the parish and that private rented housing was becoming prohibitively expensive. He said that he wanted to work with the parish council to get another affordable scheme off the ground but that finding suitable places that landowners were willing to sell for affordable housing schemes, that must be close to public transport and within walking distance of local shops and services, would be a challenge. Co Cllr Horncastle said that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) could be used to pay towards such a scheme but that any new scheme must first start with the parish council proving a need for it. He suggested that the parish council commission an up-to-date housing needs survey to assess the need and invite Rob Murfin to outline the process it needed to go through to help bring about a new affordable housing scheme. The Council agreed to include **affordable housing** as a standing item on its agenda each month and, with help from Co Cllr Horncastle, set about seeking the data that was needed.

8) Cemetery Committee

Chapel of Rest

The Council agreed to meeting the costs of providing seating and other furniture for the Chapel of Rest that was in keeping with the building. Valeria Dunn of the Allen Valleys History Group to liaise with the Clerk over the purchase so that the VAT could be reclaimed. Valeria Dunn agreed to Cllr Simmonds suggestion that the Allen Valleys History Group prepare suitable information and links for the History page of the Council's website.

Damaged tree

The Council agreed that remedial work to a damaged tree in the cemetery from Storm Arwen be carried out as soon as possible. The Clerk to ask Gavin Reicher to do the work.

Remedial work to re-align headstones, level graves, and tidy up the Cemetery

The Council agreed to a) Cllr Howard's suggestion to put in place a programme of work to re-set some of the headstones and level some of the graves in the cemetery extension. Cllr Howard to meet with gravediggers, Jonah Maurice, and Dan Birchall to agree on the details of how the work should be carried out and get an estimate for the work; b) introducing a specification that would be set as a condition for stonemasons installing memorials in Allendale cemetery. Cllr Philipson to take advice from Colman's; and

c) Cllr Graham organising a Saturday morning tidy up of the cemetery and re-defining the tarmacadam footpaths.

9) Rights of Way & Access Committee

There were none.

10) Towns & Villages Committee

Historical monuments

Responding to Valeria Dunn's concerns that repair work was still outstanding at the Chimneys, Cllr Simmonds said that she had written to Tom Gledhill of Historic England asking that he pursue this with the landowner saying that the chimneys were as iconic to the Allen Valleys as the Angel of the North was to Tyneside. The Clerk to also contact Allendale Estates and ask that it tends to the repair work. The Council to consider Valeria Dunn's suggestion to meet the costs of remedial work to local monuments in Allendale Village.

Litter picking

The Council agreed to work with Allendale Primary School and involve children in contributing towards keeping the village free from litter. Valeria Dunn to liaise with Suzanne Keen of Natural Ability.

Planters

The Council agreed to work with Allendale Primary School and involve children in maintaining the planters in the village. Valeria Dunn to liaise with Cllrs Graham and Henderson. Cllrs Graham and Henderson to source suitable replacements for the two planters that are no longer fit for purpose.

11) Correspondence

Auriol Bruce, A/Sergeant Neighbourhood Policy (Rural) North

See 6) Matters Arising above.

Clare Haley, Imperator Developments, Gateshead

The Council discussed and agreed that there was a significant need for affordable housing in the parish of Allendale and agreed a way forward (see 7) above. The Clerk to ask that Clare Haley keeps Allendale Parish Council informed of any developments in respect of the land that lies east of Dale Park.

Ken Kelly

The Council empathised with Ken Kelly since his housing provider was not willing to provide a secondary form of heating. The Clerk was asked to write to Karbon Homes and inform it that it was Allendale Parish Council's policy to encourage residents to have secondary forms of heating. Cllr Simmonds and Philipson reminded the Council that it had insisted on a secondary form of heating, the installation of wood burning stoves, when it had been consulted on the design for the Denefields site.

Susan Lorden

The Council had arranged for some readjustment to work to the grave of Susan Lorden's late father to level it since it had not settled evenly. Cllr Howard said that the Cemetery Committee would be putting in place a programme of works to carry out further remedial work to raise and level more graves in the cemetery extension (see 8) above).

12) Finance Committee

Accounts for payment

Cllr Henderson proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Graham.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **21 January 2022 - £ 48,846.01**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **10 January 2022 - £ 16,438.42**

Grant applications

The Council considered applications from seven organisations and unanimously agreed that the awards be granted as shown below:

Allen Valleys Bowling Club	£500
Allen Valleys Local History Group	£500
Allen Valley Promotions Ltd	£500
Great North Air Ambulance	£300
Higher Ground	£500
Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau	£200
Tynedale Hospice at Home	£200

13) Matters for 3rd March 2022 agenda

Councillor recruitment

14) Confidential agenda item *(for Council only)*

There was one.

15) Date of next Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **3rd March 2022** at 7pm.

[The meeting ended at 21:20](#)