

**Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall**

Present: Cllr Simmonds (Chair), Beck, Coulson, Halliday, Henderson, Howard, Kirk, Philipson, Stevenson, Swaile and, Co Cllr Horncastle and H Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Graham, Villiers-Stuart and White

2) Declarations of interest

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

[Declarations of Interest \(new council 2022\) 0.pdf \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](#)

3) Planning Committee – planning applications

23/00550/FUL – Allendale Co Operative Society Ltd, Market Place, Allendale

Cllrs Howard and Stevenson declared an interest and abstained. Cllr Philipson proposed **to support** the application, with Cllr Kirk seconding this as neither the fire escape nor the generator would be visible from any publicly accessible area, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

4) Public participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 2nd February 2023

Cllr Howard agreed, and Cllr Henderson seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6) Matters Arising

Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Review

Cllr Simmonds said that AECOM had now confirmed that it would grant technical support to Allendale Parish Council and that she would be attending an online set-up meeting to initiate the Housing Needs Assessment on 3rd March. Once the assessment was complete Cllr Simmonds said that she would convene the ANDP Review Committee to discuss AECOM's report.

Allenheads – new bench

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Philipson, with assistance from Cllr White, had now installed the long-awaited new bench for the wooded area near the top road at Allenheads.

Damaged pavement outside Post Office cash point machine, loose flagstones outside Bunkhouse and loose cobbles outside the Golden Lion

Cllr Graham had passed a message on prior to the meeting to confirm that Dave Greenwood would complete these works within the next two weeks.

Bus shelter for Allendale

Chris Curtis of Northumberland County Council's Strategic Transport and Employability Team had now agreed to an early morning site meeting to discuss a new location for the bus stop (and shelter) with Cllrs Graham and Stevenson (and/or Henderson) that just needed to be firmed up with the Clerk.

Memorial bench for the late Nigel Baynes

The Clerk said that she had let Wendy Baynes know that the Council had agreed to meet the cost of a stone memorial bench for her late husband, and she offered to meet Wendy to agree a suitable spot in the Cemetery for the bench to go. Wendy would order the bench and arrange for its installation.

Request for further Electrical Vehicle charging points for Allenheads

The Clerk confirmed that she had now applied for further Electrical Vehicle charging points for installation in the car park at Allenheads with help from Diego Perera-Solis of Northumberland County Council's Climate Change Team.

Wentworth Park – new waste bin

The Clerk confirmed that a new post-mounted waste bin had been installed close to the junction at Wentworth Park to replace the badly damaged one.

688 bus service

The Clerk had received a reply from NCC's Chris Curtis who confirmed that they were not considering any changes to the 688-bus service whilst acknowledging the challenging times for the public transport industry with many services across the region being cut.

7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update

Allendale First School

Co Cllr Colin Horncastle re-confirmed that the sale of the school was held up because of the lengthy process when selling any county council property, as well as issues to do with the utility services, however, he said that the sale would be completed by the end of the financial year.

Capital programme

Co Cllr Horncastle said that £100,000 had been made available for a resurfacing scheme around Thornley Gate.

County Council budget and restructuring

Co Cllr Horncastle said that the county council had now set its budget with no compulsory redundancies and no cuts to front line services although council tax was going up, on average, by 4.6% that included 2% for adult social care. He said that outside consultants had been appointed to review the organisational structure of the county council with a reduction in the levels of management expected saving money and improving efficiency. Co Cllr Horncastle said that there would be an increase in some of its fees including planning fees and births, deaths, and marriage fees, and that there would be an increase in the Police and Crime Commission's precept of £15 per household with a further 154 frontline police officers being appointed.

Cycle paths

Cllr Beck asked how it might be possible to get a cycle path scheme underway in the parish and Co Cllr Horncastle agreed to consult Janice Rose, Head of Economy and Regeneration on 'how to set the ball rolling'.

Recycling of food waste

Co Cllr Horncastle said that under a government directive the county council would be bringing in food recycling in two years' time (2024/2025).

Report about a vulnerable adult

Cllr Howard described to Co Cllr Horncastle and the Council a serious situation involving a vulnerable adult that he encountered on 21st February. He said that he and Cllr Philipson had repeatedly asked for help from the emergency services but had been seriously let down resulting in them spending over seven hours with the vulnerable person before an ambulance and the police attended the scene. Because of the seriousness of the situation Co Cllr Horncastle advised Cllr Howard to send a brief account of the incident to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kim McGuinness.

Undergrounding of the electrical cables in Allendale

The Clerk had written to Northern Powergrid asking if it would re-instate the original plans to underground the electrical cables in Allendale but had not yet received a reply.

8) Allotments Committee

Cllr Coulson would be meeting Eric Hutchinson and John Short on site on 5th March to discuss an area of the allotment that is shared with Eric and what action might be needed to define the boundary. He also

said that the Allotments Committee was working on the arrangements for a community consultation on developing new allotments.

9) Cemetery Committee

The Clerk said that she had taken advice from NCC on inspecting memorials with a view for getting support for this work and that she, Cllrs Howard, and Philipson had met with Gary Air, NCC's Memorial Compliance Officer on 27th February to discuss options for ensuring memorial safety at Allendale Cemetery. After discussion, the Council agreed in principle to their recommendation to ask that Gary Air carry out the inspections on behalf of the parish council (as he does for some other parish council managed cemeteries in the county). The Council agreed that the likely cost of the service appeared reasonable, but the Clerk was asked to get a more accurate estimate of the costs before making a commitment. If the Council agreed to go ahead with the arrangements Gary would undertake the work this year which is when he would be testing the memorials in St Cuthbert's Churchyard (and thereafter every four years).

The Council also agreed that a review of its cemetery charges was due, and Cllr Kirk agreed to undertake one.

10) Rights of Way & Access Committee

Cllr Beck reminded the Council that the Rights of Way & Access Committee would be meeting with Duncan Lovatt the Area Countryside Officer on 3rd March to discuss what the priorities might be for improving the condition of the footpaths in the parish. She said that they had consulted those residents that had a lot of knowledge about local footpaths as suggested and she had received a lot of feedback.

11) Towns & Villages Committee

Removal of damaged tree

Cllr Philipson described the events that lead up to the action to remove the damaged tree on the Bullring and the Council discussed the kind of policy and procedure that it needed to put in place to better manage the risk of trees failing in the parish. After a full discussion the council agreed:

- a) that Cllrs Philipson and Howard draft a policy and procedure for the full council to consider at its April 2023 meeting setting out how it proposed to manage the risk.
- b) for the Clerk to write to Peter Dodd and Matty Robson, on its behalf, to thank them for identifying the hazard and seriousness of the situation, making themselves immediately available to carry out urgent tree surgery, the quality of their work carrying out the tree surgery in spite of the poor weather conditions and with health and safety firmly in mind, and leaving the site in a good state, with the diseased stump left in situ; and
- c) for the Clerk to ask Peter Dodd for a quote to remove the stump.

12) Correspondence

Jared Dunn, Secretary Allen Valleys Local History Group

- 1) The Council agreed to ask Hilton Graham to remove the ivy growth from the mortar of the Hearse House as part of the annual village tidying works.
- 2) The Council agreed to its request for Allendale schoolchildren to plant a replacement tree on the 'island' (the Bullring) and that it would try and get the tree stub removed in good time for the event on 6th May. The Council further advised planting a white beam tree as attempts at other species had not been successful whereas the white beam planted in the same area was thriving.

Deborah Shield, Ropehaugh resident – The Council confirmed that the buildings and surrounding area linked to the former lead mining works belonged to Allendale Estates and that it had no jurisdiction over them. The Council advised that Deborah consider contacting the Conservation Officer at Northumberland County Council since the buildings, that were currently occupied, were Grade II listed.

Valeria Dunn, Chair Allen Valleys Local History Group – The Council agreed that it was not an appropriate custodian for the photographic glass plates as it did not have the expertise or the storage facilities. The

Council said that its preferred option would be for the plates to be stored with the Northumberland archives at Woodburn Colliery, Beamish Museum, or the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford: <https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/>

13) Finance Committee

Accounts for payment

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **28 February 2023 - £60,499.59**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 February 2023 - £16,462.13**

Savings and investment options

The Clerk confirmed that she had completed an application to open a Lloyds **6-month fixed-term deposit** account on 3rd February. However, she had received a reply to say that due to the increased demand for deposit accounts, it was going to take a few weeks, but once it was opened Lloyds would back date the account to five working days from when the application was submitted.

14) Matters for 6th April 2023 agenda.

None as yet

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

There was none.

16) Date of next Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on **6th April 2023** at 7pm at Allendale Village Hall.

[The meeting ended at 21:11](#)