

**Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council  
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019  
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

**Present:** Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Galley, Hill, Howard, Philipson, Quinn & White  
H Newsome (Clerk)

Councillors Dunn and Lee arrived late for the meeting (7:30 pm).

**Planning guidance for Councillors**

See 9) below.

**Planning applications**

**19/03666/OUT – Land West Of Lea Hall Cottage, Splitty Lane, Catton** – Cllr Philipson proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Galley seconding this, as it is in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1 & 2, and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion.

**19/01926/FUL – Low Frosthall, Allendale** – Cllr Philipson proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Howard seconding this, and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion. The Council queried why it had been asked to comment on the erection of this agricultural building that would usually be categorised as ‘permitted development’.

**19/03822/FUL – Burncroft, The Dene, Allendale** – Cllr Howard proposed **no objections** to the application with Cllr Philipson seconding this, and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion.

**19/03840/FUL – Land North Of Black Bank House, Black Way, Allendale** – Cllr Philipson proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Howard seconding this, as it is in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 1, 7 & 9 and this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion.

**19/03714/FUL – Parlour Close, Sinderhope** – (Cllr Philipson declared an interest in the application and left the room). Cllr Howard proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Crellin seconding this, as it is in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policies 6, 7 & 9 and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**19/01401/FUL – Land North Of Braeside Cottage, The Peth, Allendale** – The Council agreed to **no change** to its original recommendation which was **to support** the application, and Cllr Crellin said he would contact the Planning Case Officer to query the weight given to the ANDP and the emerging Draft Northumberland Local Plan.

**17/01334/VARYCO (18/02731/VARYCO) – Hopedene, The Dene, Allendale** – Cllr Crellin proposed and Cllr White seconded **no change** to the Council’s original recommendation to the application (submitted in September 2018) **to object** to the application as it is not in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 1: General Development Principles in that it adversely affects the amenity of nearby residents as well as the appearance of the settlement. This was unanimously carried by the Council.

**19/03526/FUL – Meadow Gate, Main Street, Catton** – Cllr Howard proposed **to support** the application with Cllr Galley seconding this, as it is in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9 and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**19/03891/FUL – Land West Of Strathyre, Catton** – As this planning application had arrived on the day of the meeting and Councillors had been unable to access the portal to view the application, the Council agreed to consider the application outside the meeting using email. **Post meeting Note:** When the Clerk contacted NCC’s Planning Department she was advised that the application ‘had not yet been validated’.

**Decision notices**

**19/01802/VARYCO – Low Sunnyside, Catton – GRANTED**

**19/02381/FELTPO – Hemmel Coffee Shop, Allenheads – GRANTED**

### **1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Baxter, Henderson, Sandison and Simmonds

### **2) Declarations of Interest**

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

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale/documents>

### **3) Public participation**

There were seven members of the public in attendance. Bill Edgar, Reporter from the Hexham Courant was also present for the meeting. A resident from Catton raised the issue of road safety when leaving the concealed junction at Batey Terrace, from the point of view of both pedestrians and motorists, and referred to her correspondence in which she proposed a solution. The Council acknowledged the problem and said that it had asked NCC to consider what measures might be put in place to remedy the problem, however, Highways Manager, Neil Snowdon had not yet found a feasible solution – see 13) Correspondence below.

### **4) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Philipson seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **5) Matters Arising**

#### **Allen House**

The Clerk said that the Environment Enforcement Officer at Northumberland County Council (NCC) had carried out a landownership search on the property, however, the details of the property boundary remained unclear so he was taking further advice.

#### **Gullies and drains**

Whilst the Council recognised that NCC had limited resources in the County for clearing out the gullies and drains, the Clerk to request that those worst affected are cleared, and that she use social media in order to encourage parish residents to use the NCC website links to report problems with blocked gullies:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Roads/Protection.aspx#maintainingroadspavements>

#### **Japanese Knotweed**

The Clerk to ask NCC what its plans are for managing the Japanese Knotweed along Folly Lane.

#### **Rectory Field (and Allenfields)**

The Council asked the Clerk to take up its concerns about the disused water tanks presenting a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles in winter when the water spilled out on the road and freezes, directly with NCC's Highways Department.

The Council thanked Cllrs Philipson and Howard for their quick action in getting Peter Dodd to look at the drains above Isaacs's Well that were flooding The Manse garden on Monday. The Clerk to: write to Peter Dodd on behalf of the Council to thank him for his speedy response in sorting out the drains in Allenfields and resolving the flooding problems; and seek to retrieve the costs from British Telecom since it appeared that one of its stays had penetrated the drain pipe causing the problems in the first place.

#### **Sycamore tree**

Cllr Philipson proposed, and Cllr Howard seconded to: remove (fell) the Sycamore tree outside the Library following on from advice received from the tree surgeon; replant a new tree in a near location; and invite tree surgeon Matty Robson to the next meeting. This was unanimously carried by the Council.

#### **Waste bins**

Cllr Lee to seek approval from the Footpaths Officer to move the waste bin on The Peth to the finger post where the vertical post would give more support to the bin and be less likely to be damaged through heavy-handedness.

## **6) County Councillor update**

Co Cllr Horncastle was not present for the meeting.

## **7) Allendale Market Square**

### **Drop kerbs**

The Clerk to request an update from Neil Snowdon who had previously agreed to formalise the existing drop kerbs in the Market Square and install these correctly including providing textured surfaces.

### **Footpath alongside the Allotments**

The Clerk to request that Neighbourhood Services clear the footpath alongside the Allotments.

### **Isaac's Well**

The Council discussed and agreed to support the Village Committee's proposal to make more of a distinctive feature out of Isaac's Well with seating and an interpretation board. Cllr Lee said that he had talked to David Coverdale of North Pennines AONB who had suggested that the Council draw up a rough estimate of the cost of the work before approaching potential funders including the forthcoming Funders Fair in Hexham later in the month. The Council to work with other organisations in the community in the design of the new feature, such as the Allen Valleys Local History Group, Friends of North Pennines AONB, Ninebanks YHA and Isaac's Tea Trail (Roger Morris). Cllr Dunn to arrange for Malcolm Aitchison to source and fit a new grid for the Well.

### **Resurfacing of car parking area by the Forge and the Dale**

The Clerk said that Coulson Construction Ltd had provided an estimate to resurface approximately 710 square metres of car parking in the town square at a cost of £13, 252 (excluding VAT). The Council agreed to discuss how it might pay for the work at the December Finance meeting.

### **Village maintenance**

Cllr Dunn to arrange for Malcolm Aitchison to complete the Village maintenance work that he had started in the summer (one day's work).

## **8) Allenfields Play Area**

Cllrs Hill and Henderson had met the contractors installing the new playground on site as they had expressed concern at the location and orientation of the swing that was sited too close to one of the houses. The foreman agreed to move the swing about 1.5 metres in and to re-orientate it so that it would be swinging in the direction of the Co-op. Cllr Hill expressed concern that there were no plans to put a fence around the playground, especially as it is on an area well used by dogs, but also for health and safety reasons. The Clerk was asked to request that Karbon Homes install a fence with a gate around the perimeter of the play area that was usual for toddler play areas such as these.

## **9) Planning guidance for Councillors** (discussed at the start of the meeting)

Cllr Crellin proposed, and Cllr Galley seconded that the Council accept the **Guidelines for discussing planning applications** (Appendix A) and although Cllr Quinn objected to item 5) this was unanimously carried by all those Councillors who were present for the discussion.

## **10) Living Dales**

Cllr Crellin informed the Council of the Voluntary Organisations Day event to be held in the Village Hall that St Cuthbert's Church is hosting in May. The aim of the event, that has a working title of Living Dales, is to look at volunteering needs across the parish together with volunteering opportunities, that would bring together local organisations and encourage volunteering. Cllr Crellin proposed, and Cllr Galley seconded that the Council support this event.

### **11) Climate Action Allendale**

Following on from recent correspondence sent by Friends of the Earth to encourage communities to start a Climate Action Group, Cllr Hill proposed a motion that the Parish Council set up such a group. The Group would be led and co-ordinated by a representative of the Parish Council (Cllr Hill) at least initially, and be open to non-Councillors. Cllr Hill said that he intended that the Group would be made up of local people, businesses and organisations, including the many local environmental groups, who would work together on developing an Action Plan. Cllr Philipson said that it was important that the Group be mindful of the existing work in place to protect local wildlife (eg wading birds, red squirrels) and to include North Pennines AONB and the RSPB in developing the Action Plan. Cllr Howard said that the Group should be aware that some single use plastics such as silage wrap is recycled and used to make new products such as garden furniture. Whilst the Council recognised the full extent of the project, after discussion, Cllr Crellin seconded the motion and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

### **12) External Audit Report**

The Clerk said that she had now received the Audit Report from PKF Littlejohn LLP and that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was in accordance with Proper Practices except that 'The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review: Information received from the smaller authority indicates that assets purchased during previous years have not been included in Section 2, Box 9 for 2017/2018'. The Clerk had now posted the report on the website.

### **13) Correspondence (see Appendix A)**

**Brendon Jackson, Treasurer, Allendale Sports Club** - Cllr Dunn declared an interest. Cllr Philipson proposed, and Cllr Howard seconded that Allendale Sports Club be granted £500 towards essential work to resurface of the car park, and this was unanimously carried by the Council.

**Jenny Fairless, Catton resident** – The Clerk to: find out why bus timetable information is not displayed in Catton as it is along Allen View; and make arrangements for the tree surgeon to check the condition of two trees on Catton Green and prune if needed.

**Heather Doody, Catton resident** – The Clerk to: put forward Ms Doody's solution to improve road safety when leaving Batey Terrace to Neil Snowdon, NCC's Highways Manager and ask for feedback; check if there is anything that can be done to improve road safety in that area, including looking at the signage; and to find out the status of the Catton triangle works that Neil had passed to his design team around a year ago.

**Janice Walker, Natural Ability** – Cllr Crellin said that he had written to Janice Walker encouraging her to share her most positive story of how £100 grant from the Parish Council 10 years ago was the catalyst for the project that now had an annual turnover of £1 million!

**Mike Quinn, Councillor, Allendale Parish Council** – Cllr Quinn had written to NCC's Planning Department enquiring whether the Planning Enforcement Officer had put a formal stop notice on the Helipad (Ref: 19/00630/FUL) to prevent it from being used.

**Gloria Ashman, Mandy Charlton, Dorothy Collier, Michael Hall, Sybil Makepeace and Joan Welch, local residents** – Cllr Crellin agreed to respond to a recent article in the Hexham Courant in which it was reported that he singled out and made negative comments about a fellow councillor. Cllr Dunn thanked the local residents for the support that they had given her at a difficult time and said that she wished to bring the matter to a close once Cllr Crellin's letter was published.

### **Accounts for Payment**

Cllr Quinn proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Howard.

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - £73,280.25**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - £ 5232.93**

**14) Matters for next month's agenda**

Bowling Green

Climate Action Allendale (standing item)

Looking ahead – creating an annual plan (to include Local Transport Planning)

National Community Energy Campaign

Planning Applications – protocol around site visits

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

There were none.

**16) Date of next Parish Council meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **7<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at Allendale Village Hall at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9:50 pm.