

**Minutes of Allendale Parish Council Meeting  
held on  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Simmonds (Chair), Beck, Coulson, Graham, Halliday, Henderson, Howard, Kirk, Philipson, Villiers-Stuart and White and H Newsome (Clerk)

**1) Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Stevenson and Swaile and Co Cllr Colin Horncastle

**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**

**23/00091/FUL – Lonkley Head Farm, Allendale**

Cllr Howard proposed **to support** the application, with Cllr Graham seconding this as it was in keeping with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Policy 9: Extensions to Dwellings, and the Council unanimously carried the motion.

**4) Public participation**

There were three members of the public in attendance.

**5) Minutes of the previous meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Cllr Coulson agreed, and Cllr Philipson seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record with one amendment, that Cllr Stevenson be removed from the list of apologies for absence.

**6) Matters Arising**

**Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP) Review**

Cllr Simmonds said that following on from the Council's first ANDP review on 19<sup>th</sup> January and subsequent formal application for technical support made to Locality, she and the Clerk had met again online with Sarah Brannigan, Chris Anderson, and a Niamh McDevitt of AECOM. The purpose of the meeting was for Niamh to gain further information that would help AECOM plan for a potential housing needs assessment. A decision as to whether technical support would be granted will be made by 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Proposed bollards in front of the Co-op Shop**

The Clerk said that there had been some discussion as to ownership of the footpath prior to any works. Since Richard MacKenzie had confirmed that the end of the footway outside the Co-op was not within the public highway, and Neville Pringle had confirmed that the Co-op did not own the land, the Clerk said that the area was most likely owned by Allendale Estates and therefore managed by Allendale Parish Council under the village greens management agreement. Cllr Philipson said that the extent of the village green had always been a grey area but since the proposal was to improve access to the store then this was within the scope of the management agreement. Richard MacKenzie had confirmed that since Highways would not be changing the way the area was used that he was happy to go ahead with the dropped kerb.

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

Cllr Graham agreed to ask Dave Greenwood to undertake work to remove the old waste bin near Wentworth Park and install a new one, in addition to the other works in the Market Square.

## **Bus shelters for Allendale and Catton**

Cllrs Graham and Stevenson to hold a consultation with Catton residents to discuss a suitable design for the proposed new bus shelter in Catton.

## **Bus shelter for Allendale**

The Clerk to set up a date for Cllrs Graham and Stevenson to meet **Chris Curtis** of Northumberland County Council's Strategic Transport and Employability Team and discuss the Council's proposal for a new location for the bus stop, for both the 688 service and the Haydon Bridge school bus, that was away from the Market Square.

## **7) County Councillor and Northumberland County Council update**

Co Cllr Colin Horncastle had previously sent his apologies to the meeting, together with an update on the status of the former Allendale First School. Co Cllr Horncastle had 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.

## **8) Allotments Committee**

The Allotments Committee would shortly be working on the meeting arrangements for its forthcoming community consultation on developing new allotments.

## **9) Cemetery Committee**

Cllr Howard gave an update on matters relating to the Cemetery that included:

- a) his proposal to refurbish the stone building at the rear of the Chapel of Rest and the install a wooden lean-to in its place.
- b) how best to manage the safety of unstable memorial stones in the cemetery.
- c) the gravedigger's suggestion to be able to take the soil away for the burial service, and then bring it back to the site afterwards.
- d) the need for more shoring equipment.

After discussion, the Council agreed to the following actions:

- e) Cllrs Howard and Graham (and the Clerk) to prepare a specification for the refurbishment of the stone building and a separate quote for lean-to and its installation.
- f) The Clerk to take advice on inspecting memorials from Northumberland County Council, with a view to getting support for this work.

## **10) Rights of Way & Access Committee**

Cllr Beck said that the Rights of Way & Access Committee would be meeting with Duncan Lovatt the Area Countryside Officer on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss what the priorities might be for improving the condition of the footpaths in the parish. In the meantime, the Council, after discussion, agreed that it would be helpful for the Rights of Way Committee to a) meet those residents that walked regularly in the parish, and had a lot of knowledge about its footpaths, including Geoff Lee, Anne Potter, and Jennifer Norderhaugh, and b) check out the Magic website that provides geographic information including standard terms used for referencing footpaths.

## **11) Towns & Villages Committee**

There were no actions.

## **12) Correspondence**

**Cllr Sam Coulson** – The Council discussed Cllr Coulson's suggestion to make use of wood donations by offering them to those that would benefit and agreed to a) ask for quotes that include taking the wood

away to Deneraw log bank after trees are felled in future, and b) for Cllr Coulson to talk to those that run and volunteer at the log bank and find out how its run.

**Wendy Baynes** – The Council unanimously agreed to meet the cost of a stone memorial bench in memory of the late Nigel Baynes. The Clerk to discuss with Wendy next steps.

**Lauren McClusky, Elections Office, NCC** – The Council agreed it would use its Facebook page to help raise awareness of the accepted form of photo ID needed when voting in person from May 2023 (both now and closer to the next election).

**Iain Hedley, Community Regeneration, NCC** – The Clerk to apply for further Electrical Vehicle charging points for installation in the car park at Allenheads.

Cllr Philipson to find out more information about an energy scheme designed for using renewable energy generated locally, within the community, instead of it going into the grid.

The Clerk to ask Northern Powergrid if would re-instate the original plans to underground the electrical cables in Allendale.

**Mike Carter** – The Council discussed the issues raised in Mike's correspondence, including the two accidents that had taken place along Station Road. It agreed that the Clerk should refer the correspondence (with Mike's permission) to Highways, re-iterating that the Parish Council had repeatedly requested for the speed limit to be lowered to 30mph and remind Highways that this had been approved by them in principle through the annual Local Transport Plan programme, but to date no action had been taken.

**Tracey Dobson** – see 7 above.

**Auriol Bruce** – The Clerk to follow up with Neighbourhood Services if the wheelie bin and locking station was not installed by the end of the week.

**Gavin Hunt** – The Council discussed Gavin's request that the public toilets lights are turned off at night-time so that he can use his telescope and enjoy the dark skies as well as saving energy. The Council agreed that whilst it wished to retain some residual light to enable people to access the toilets safely, that the Clerk should ask Neighbourhood Services to shine light only where it is needed, and for the lights to point down (rather than out and up), and for the lights to be shielded, which helps direct light only where it's needed.

**Dr Peter Howarth** – The Clerk to follow up on Dr Howarth's correspondence concerning the 688 bus service that was sent to NCC for comment and that she had not received a reply to.

**Cllr Nick Howard** – The Council agreed to replace the badly damaged post-mounted waste bin on the roadside opposite Wentworth Park. Cllr Graham and the Clerk to order the bin and arrange for its installation.

### **13) Finance Committee**

#### **Small grant applications**

Cllrs Beck, Coulson, and Villiers-Stewart declared an interest and left the room. The Council considered applications from eight organisations and Cllr Halliday proposed that the following awards were granted, seconded by Cllr Howard, and agreed unanimously by the Council:

<b>Allendale Mayfair</b>	<b>£500</b>
<b>Allendale Netball Club</b>	<b>£200</b>
<b>Allen Valley Red Squirrels</b>	<b>£250</b>
<b>Allen Valleys Community Arts</b>	<b>£500</b>
<b>Allen Valleys Local History Group</b>	<b>£300</b>
<b>Higher Ground</b>	<b>£300</b>
<b>Miscreations Theatre Ltd</b>	<b>£300</b>
<b>Tynedale Hospice at Home</b>	<b><u>£200</u></b>
	<b>£2,250</b>

## **Accounts for payment**

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

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as of **31 January 2023 - £ 61,253.38**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balances as of **9 January 2023 - £ 16,453.75**

## **Savings and investment options**

The Clerk to go ahead and invest **£30k** now in a Lloyds **6-month fixed-term deposit** account at whatever rate is agreed post Chancellor announcement. The Council agreed to further invest £30k in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund, and to make that investment in April after it had received the first instalment of the precept.

## **14) Matters for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023** at 7pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall.

The meeting ended at 21:00