

**Minutes of the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council Thursday 5 March 2020 at 7.30 at Middle, Ninebanks, Hexham, NE47 8DL**

**Present:** Helen Adams, Steve Agar, Alan Greaves, Colin Horncastle, John Martin, Ian Reed, Barbara Ingman (Clerk)

- The Minutes from the meeting held on 5 December 2019 were accepted as a true record.
- Matters arising from previous meeting –  
Road conditions: Colin Horncastle reported that the Council has done some work on the roads but the volume of rain this winter has caused more damage. SA raised concerns about the quality of the work the contractors do. JM pointed out that the contractors have been working on the private road leading to Mohope Head. IR said contractors recently came when it was snowing and they were unable to do any work. CH said that a lot of the problems are caused by poor drainage. The priorities for the West Allen areas are the Carrshield road to the County boundary, the Middle up to the Dales and there is a deep pothole just below the Dales. At Hawkuplee road end the burn is going to wash the road up and at the Malakoff Bridge the river is washing into the foundation of the bridge. Mohope bank still needs a digger to do some repair work on the ditch to stop water running down the bank. Our roads are absolutely atrocious.  
Cut back the overhanging trees between Carrshield and Ninebanks. Anything on the roadside of the wall should be cut back as the overhanging trees are forcing drivers to drive in the middle of the road.
- **Correspondence:**  
Isaacs Tea Trail Race – no further correspondence but the race is to be held on 8 August 2020. Further information is on the following website: <https://fortituderunning.com/isaac-tea-trail-running-race>.  
Lime kiln collapse - Miners Rest, Carrshield NE47 8AB – Lisa Beattie is expecting a visit in March from NCC Building Conservation Officer, Val Robson, who will undertake an inspection of the kiln and advise on the best course of action.

Great North Air Ambulance – acknowledged and thanked the West Allen PC for their donation and this was circulated via email.

The Harlequin Group, appointed by Arqiva to manage network improvements within the County Council's jurisdiction asked for the West Allen PC's comments on a Smart Meter Telecommunication installation at Middle, Ninebanks, Northumberland, NE47 8DL. Steve Agar questioned the range they expect the antenna to be effective, but they didn't appear to know.

Land Management Consultation - DEFRA have launched a consultation saying

**"Our Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM) will be the cornerstone of our new agricultural policy. It will transform how we support the agricultural sector by rewarding farmers, foresters and other land managers with public money for public goods."**

**More details: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/elm/elmpolicyconsultation/>**

**SA commented that the North Pennines AONB is involved in this. A notice about this consultation will be put in the West Allen Parish Council noticeboard.**

4. Planning –

Coalcleugh Allendale - Extension to north gable - permitted

Wall Nook – single storey rear extension – permitted

5. Any other Business - CH mentioned some of the work that NCC is currently involved with: NCC Education Department has had an Ofsted inspection and is now classed as good. They are on target to build one new high school every year. Haydon Bridge has had 5m pound investment into it and has excellent vocational facilities offering catering, hairdressing, beauty, woodwork, metalwork and construction courses. School numbers have increased to almost 400. They also offer vocational facilities for adult learning. More government funding is available for road and bridge repairs.

NCC has been classed as the greenest CC in the North of England. They are promoting the Great north forest and every household will be given a sapling. There are huge house building schemes in most parts of the County.

The first school building in Allendale is in the process of being transferred to a private buyer and it is expected to be converted into some form of housing. The building and railings are listed.

SA asked if there was a record of people in the West Allen who were killed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war. The Hexham Courant may be able to help and Marina Wallace may know.

- Date and times of next meeting – Thursday 4 June 2020 at 7.30 at Middle, Ninebanks,

Hexham, NE47 8DL