

**Minutes of the Allendale Parish Council Meeting
held at Allendale Village Hall on Thursday 7th March 2019
(including minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee)**

Present: Cllr Crellin (Chair), Councillors Baxter, Dunn, Galley, Henderson, Hill, Lee, Philipson, Quinn, Sandison & Simmonds

H Newsome (Clerk)

Planning applications

19/00372/FUL – Ashleigh Cottage, Thornley Gate, Allendale – proposed single storey extension

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **no objections** to the application. Planning Department to consider how the work fits in with Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan **Policy ANDP 9: Extensions to Dwellings**, bullet point one.

18/00483/FUL – The Wintings, Shilburn Road, Allendale – proposed creation of a single dwelling house and extension of associated vehicular access. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **support** the application as it helps achieve its housing targets.

19/00058/LBC – Allen Mill Bridge, Allendale – proposal to attach a duct to place the optical fibres in preparation for Broadband for Allen Valleys. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to **support** the application as it is providing a much-needed superfast Broadband service.

Decision notices

19/00234/LBC – 2 Brides Cottages, Allendale – GRANTED

1) Apologies for absence

Councillors Howard and White
County Councillor Horncastle

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Baxter declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society

Cllr Crellin declared an interest in the Dale Singers, Allendale Folk Festival & Allen Valleys Promotions Ltd and St Cuthbert's Church

Cllr Henderson declared an interest in the Allendale Agricultural Society, Allendale Horticultural Society and Allendale Baby & Toddler Group

Cllr Hill declared an interest in Allendale May Fair

Cllr Lee declared an interest in Allendale Primary School, Arnison Jubilee Almshouses & Health Walks

Cllr Philipson declared an interest in High Forest Community Association, Allenheads Trust & Natural Ability

Cllr Quinn declared an interest in Natural Ability

Cllr Sandison declared an interest in Allendale Film Club

Cllr Simmonds declared an interest in St Cuthbert's Church, North Pennines AONB Partnership Board & Allen Valleys Landscape Partnership Board

3) Public Participation

There were two members of the public in attendance. James Robinson, reporter from the Hexham Courant, was also present for the meeting.

Andrew Docchar attended the meeting to address the concerns that the Parish Council had raised about his holiday let pre-app at its meeting on 3rd January 2019, and to invite further comments on the design and plans that he went on to describe. Mr Docchar reassured the Council that he would be taking advice from NCC's Footpaths Officer when making suitable arrangements for creating access from the public footpath and for carrying out the work. He has also fixed and diverted a leaking spring with the permission of the landowner, and is also seeking the permission of Northumbrian Water Ltd to access the main sewer.

Mr Docchar referred to Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP 4) that promotes the growth of tourism and he said that in the design of the holiday let he would be using materials sympathetic to the setting including wood, glass and slate. Holiday guests would be advised to park in the Village on common land. The Council advised that Mr Docchar make contact with Simon Wilson of North Pennines AONB and invite him to visit the site and check out the AONB Planning Guidelines and Building Design Guide prior to submitting his planning application.

4) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th February 2019

With a few minor amendments Cllr Quinn proposed, and Cllr Simmonds seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

Abandoned vehicles – Cllr Lee said that he had sent photos of the abandoned SORN vehicle on the Bull Ring to Paul Turnbull at NCC. Whilst Mr Turnbull has responsibility for abandoned vehicles, he is unable to report it to the DVLA as he is not one of the designated people that DVLA deal with. Meanwhile the abandoned car on the Bull Ring has gone.

Sci Fi Museum

Cllr Galley informed the Council about the discussions that took place on 4th March 2019 between Neil and Lisa Cole and representatives of NCC's Planning Department that he and Co Cllr Horncastle were present at. Cllr Galley said that it was an 'extremely grim meeting with very little positive said for an hour' with no recognition of what has been done to improve the building. The Coles have been advised that the shed has to go and that there are further issues concerning the interior of the museum that they would need to deal with, along with paying the associated planning fees. He said that Co Cllr Horncastle had been absolutely brilliant in supporting the museum and confirmed that there is a possibility that a stone extension to the building might be considered at a Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Henderson asked if there was anything else the Council could do to support the Museum and Cllr Galley suggested that the Parish Council give as much support as it can, including supporting the planning application, but without promising things it couldn't deliver.

Dog waste problems

Cllr Henderson said that she had not yet met up with NCC's Animal Welfare & Dog service as she has been unable to make contact with the officer but she would keep trying.

Rights of Way Sub-Committee

Cllr Lee to convene a meeting with all members of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee.

Tree surgery at Cemetery

Cllr Crellin confirmed that the price that Bill Pierce Trees quoted to carry out essential tree surgery work at the cemetery included taking the wood away from the Cemetery.

Allendale Primary School

Cllr Lee invited Reporter James Robinson to include an item in the Hexham Courant on the very high standard of results achieved in the writing at the end of Key Stage 2 that put Allendale Primary School in the top 1% of primary schools in England.

Drop kerbs and markings

Cllr Lee said that residents using the pedestrian crossing on their mobility scooters are unable to access the post office without going the long way around.

Dogs off their leads in Deneholme Wood

Cllr Simmonds said that David Coverdale of North Pennines AONB would be arranging for some signs asking dog owners to keep dogs on their leads in Deneholme Wood.

National Spring Clean Initiative

Councillors to let Cllr Dunn know if they would like to take part in the Keep Britain Tidy's National Spring Clean event at Allendale Primary School on Saturday, 30th March 2019.

6) County Councillor update

Co Cllr Horncastle sent his apologies to the meeting and sent a brief written update on the following issues:

Pavement sweeping – Co Cllr Horncastle suggests that the Council agree on its priorities for footpath clearance and share these with Local Services.

Salt dome – Co Cllr set out the benefits of the salt dome to the Village and how he had lobbied for years for a salt barn which is why he couldn't take part in the planning decision. Cllr Quinn referred to his formal complaint to NCC's Director of Planning about the approval of the planning application for the Salt Dome at Allendale's NCC Depot (18/03728/VARCCD) and asked for comments. The Council had a full discussion on the outcome of the planning application. Whilst it had previously fully supported the installation of the salt barn, the Council had unanimously objected to the dome because of its height and size in a prominent position in the village. The Clerk was asked to find out, from the Planning Department and Highways Department, what the justification was for selecting the dome. The Council also remained dissatisfied with the quality of the on-line documentation that was less professional than the usual standards expected from applicants.

Traffic calming past Allendale Primary School – Co Cllr Horncastle reiterated that the County-wide approach is to adopt a 20mph limit in every village that has a school and/or hospital. He is also continuing to address the concerns of Mr and Mrs Stuart and is working to resolve these. The Council discussed the raised granite setts together with the collective measures to improve road safety that some Councillors remain dissatisfied with. Cllr Quinn had already set out his views on these in a letter to Chair Cllr Crellin that was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council remained concerned that some drivers are not respecting the new safety measures in place, and that they are disregarding the new speed restrictions putting people at risk. After discussion the Clerk was asked to put forward the following suggestions to Co Cllr Horncastle:

- a) To reduce the height of the granite setts so that they are all at the lower height
- b) To move the double setts away from residential properties at the Catton end (in between Elmcroft and Philipburn Cottage)
- c) To put traffic monitoring in for two weeks with the setts in place and then monitor again after removing the setts to see what the difference is

7) Managing Allendale Village Green

The Council discussed the approaches to closing off the diagonal road between the Bull Ring and the Post Office on the Village Green that Stephen Rickitt, Chair of NALC has considered and outlined in a paper sent to the Council prior to the meeting. Mr Rickitt had proposed that the Council build a case that the Bull Ring area is both public highway and village green. This would allow for the highway authority to relocate the part of the highway for moving vehicles within the existing highway, and provide parking and other amenities within, under the various powers in the Highways Act and elsewhere.

The Chair, Cllr Crellin said that paying for the services of a specialist barrister might be the most effective way of getting a resolution that would inform the Council's next steps. The Council agreed that the Villages Sub-Committee should meet and give full consideration to Mr Rickitt's advice and propose a course of action for the Council to take to be discussed at a future Parish Council.

A member of the public asked if the Council would share Mr Rickitt's paper so that the public could benefit from the same advice and expert opinion and so as to avoid any unintended consequences of any decisions made. Cllr Simmonds said that the Council had consulted widely in 2010 when it was developing ideas for improving the Market Square and from experience it was better if the Council shared and published information only once all the facts are established so as to avoid any inaccurate information spreading. The Clerk undertook to share information on this issue in due course.

8) Waste bins

Cllr Simmonds proposed, and Cllr Philipson seconded that Cllr Lee work with the Clerk to order the new waste bins that have previously been agreed up to the value set aside for them in the 2019/2020 Precept. The Clerk to ask Local Services to check the condition of the waste bin on The Peth to ensure that it is still serviceable.

9) Allendale Market Square

Re-laying of cobbles in the Market Place

Cllr Galley said that Coulson Construction Ltd have provided a new quote to re-cobble the Market Square on account of a price increase in concrete with effect from 1st January 2019. Coulson Construction Ltd have offered to carry out the work either at the end of April/early May or in the autumn 2019. The Council agreed to a revised quote from Coulson's and confirmed that it wished for this work to start as soon as possible. The Council also acknowledged that there are no dates for the plans for Northern Powergrid to underground the electric cables in the centre of Allendale. Cllr Galley to invite Coulson Construction to provide a quote for re-surfacing the area of parking close to the Forge that is in very poor condition.

Allendale Toilets

Clerk to report the repair needed to the Gents toilet lock to Local Services and also ensure that the toilet block is open in time for the Allendale Challenge on 6th April 2019.

10) Correspondence (see Appendix A)

Tracy Bradley, Catton resident – The Council discussed the parking concerns in Catton that were raised by Tracy Bradley. It acknowledged that making changes to Catton Village Green poses the same intractable issues of legality that faces Allendale with it being registered under the Commons Act 1965 as village green. The Council said that unless it could bring about a material change in the legislation then all it could do is to encourage residents to park as considerately as possible.

Robert Graham & Ed Robinson – The Council agreed that the stretch of road from Thornley Gate to Mill Cottages is seriously in need of repair. Clerk to raise the issue with NCC's Highways Department with a view to fixing it. Clerk to also bring to NCC's attention the subsidence of the path adjacent to the Sports Club that has caused damage to the stone wall and several stones to have become dislodged.

Dave Raynor – Clerk to point Mr Raynor in the direction of Allendale Recycling Centre as the most suitable location for a textile recycling bank.

Dorothy Hall, North East War Memorials Project – Clerk to let Ms Hall know that the Council will consider her request for sponsorship at its meeting in September, the date when it next is able to give grants.

Frank Turner – The Council discussed Mr Turner's request to trade with a food unit at the 2019 Allendale Tar Barrel Festival and pointed out that it did not look favourably on guest traders at the festival on account of health & safety issues related to the procession.

Northumberland & Newcastle Society (N&NS) – Clerk to refer N&NS to Allendale's Neighbourhood Development Plan as the issues related to wind energy are covered there. Councillors are free to respond as individuals.

John Short, Dales Garden Society – The Council are happy to be included in the floral display competition.

Lorna Stephenson – Clerk to forward correspondence that makes a suggestion to help red squirrels cross the road to Matty Robson.

Calor Rural Community Fund – Clerk to publicise information on grants for local projects on social media and the Library, Village Hall and Health Centre.

Craig Atkinson – Cllr Dunn to investigate Mr Atkinson's query concerning the repair of a leak from the water pipe feeding Isaac's Well.

Maggie Keyte – On behalf of the Council the Clerk to apply for Tree Preservation Orders on three Sycamore trees and one Ash tree on Rectory meadow.

NALC Training Courses 2019 – Councillors to let the Chair Cllr Crellin and Clerk know if they are interested in attending any of the events.

11) Accounts for Payment (see Appendix B)

Cllr Quinn proposed the accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Galley

Treasurer's Account: bank balance as at **27 February 2019 - £ £56,114.23**

Business 30-Day Notice Account: bank balance as at **11 February 2019 - £ 5,231.42**

12) Matters for next month's agenda - None

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

There were none.

14) Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **4th April 2019** in Allendale Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting ended at 9:40 pm.