

Minutes of the Meeting of Allendale Parish Council held in St Cuthbert's Church Hall on Thursday 8th March 2018

Present: Councillors Philipson (Chair), Baxter, Galley, Henderson, Lee, Quinn, Sandison, White & Walter
H Newsome (Clerk)

1) Apologies for absence

County Councillor Horncastle, Cllrs: Dunn, Howard & Simmonds and belated apologies from Vice Chair, Cllr Crellin.

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

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

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 Walter declared an interest in Allendale Youth Ambition

On behalf of the Clerk to the Trustees of the Charles Arnison Jubilee Almshouses, the Chair thanked Cllr Lee for his last four years' service as a Trustee and acknowledged that he had agreed to a further term of four years.

3) Public Participation

There was one member of the public in attendance who wished to discuss Phase 2 of the consultation 'Education in West Northumberland'. The Chair, Cllr Philipson, declared an interest in Haydon Bridge High School and declined to take part in the discussion. Because of the absence of the Vice Chair, Cllr Quinn chaired this part of the meeting on Cllr Philipson's behalf and proposed to bring forward the item. Cllr Galley seconded this (see the discussion notes at 8 below).

4) Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st February 2018

Cllr Galley proposed, and Cllr Sandison seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2018 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

Interpretation in the Allen Valleys

Cllr Lee confirmed that the Holmes Linn and Blackett level interpretation panels are now in place.

Waste Bins

Cllr Galley to include a note in Village Notes reminding dog walkers that bagged dog dirt can be put in any council waste bin, not just those designated for dog waste.

6) County Councillor update

County Cllr Horncastle was not in attendance due to him attending a public meeting at Whitley Chapel, however, he did kindly provide information concerning the refurbishment of County Hall in advance of the meeting as previously requested.

7) Northumberland Local Plan update and 'Call for Sites'

The Council considered the correspondence from Mark Ketley, Head of Planning Services informing us that Northumberland County Council is preparing a new county-wide Local Plan. The Council did not wish to put forward any potential development sites for consideration.

8) Education in the West of Northumberland consultation – Phase 2

The Council discussed Phase 2 of the consultation in light of the proposed models put forward by Northumberland County Council (a, b and c), and following on from its first public drop-in held on 26th February that Chair, Cllr Philipson attended. Cllrs Baxter, Dunn and Walter had all attended Haydon Bridge High School's (HBHS) own meeting held the previous evening on 7th March at which the Headteacher, Darren Glover had put forward an alternative option (option d).

Maggie Keyte had attended both meetings and said that the options put forward by NCC were complex and confusing and would involve a radical shift of the school population. In contrast Mrs Keyte said she was impressed by the straight talking at HBHS and that she would be voting for the alternative option d that was being put forward by the school.

Councillors considered the County Council options and discussed the drawbacks that include the proposal to create an all through 4 – 16 years school at Haydon Bridge (option c) and the potential consequences for the primary schools in Allendale and Whitfield. They also looked at HBHS's alternative proposal (option d) that seeks to provide more choice for students and focuses on the needs of the community and employers. Option d allows for the provision of on-site special educational needs to support all students up to the age of 18, as well as the strong pastoral care already provided at the school.

After a long discussion the Council were inclined to support the proposals put forward in option d, but it agreed to keep under review any further developments before the next meeting on 5th April when a final decision on a course of action will be taken.

In the meantime, Clerk to invite Darren Glover to the next Parish Council meeting on 5th April or on an alternative date prior to the Easter holidays.

Clerk and Cllrs Baxter and Henderson to make use of Parish noticeboards and social media to help get messages out about the consultation.

9) Allendale Market Square

Public Art

Cllr Galley proposed to take forward an invitation from Team Big Things that could lead to them funding a public art project for a new landmark in Allendale. Cllr Walter seconded this with support from five more councillors. Two councillors were not in favour of the project. Cllr Galley to suggest a granite and steel circle design for the Market Square with a Tar Bar'l and guisers theme.

Planters

The Chair and Clerk to look for guardians that would be interested in watering and maintaining the flower planters each year.

Weed spraying

The Council discussed what resources to use to complement the work of Northumberland County Council's Local Services that provide two weed sprays each year - the first in May/early June and the second in August/ September. The Council agreed to invite Practical Landscapes to provide two sprays in 2018, the first in in late April and the second in July and then review this at the end of the year. The Clerk to inform Local Services of these arrangements and take them up on their offer to deal with specific issues as and when required.

10) Maintenance of footpaths

Cllr Lee said that he had been informed of the poor condition of the stile on footpath 502/074 at Sinderhope. It was unanimously agreed that enquiries concerning the condition of the footpaths in the Parish should be dealt with by Cllr Lee who will liaise directly with the Duncan Lovatt, the Footpaths Officer. Cllr Galley to include an item in Village Notes that asks folks to refer any footpath queries to the allendaleparishcouncil@outlook.com mailbox in the first place and the Clerk would pass these on to Cllr Lee.

11) Correspondence

See Appendix A for a full list of correspondence

Pam Mallabar, resident of 6 Arnison Place to express concern about the state of the footpaths around the Village Hall that is causing the elderly people using the venue some anxiety. Clerk to inform Ms Mallabar that the Parish Council have put the matter in the hands of the County Council and it will monitor progress.

Cllr Galley proposed that the Council use some of its Community budget and award £500 to **Allendale Youth Ambition** and £500 to **Broadband for Allen Valleys**. Chair, Cllr Philipson and Cllr Walter declared an interest. The proposal was unanimously agreed by the remaining Councillors. Cllr Galley to include an item in Village Notes.

Abi Conway, **Citizens Advice Northumberland** to request a donation to help fund travel and training costs of their volunteers. The Council agreed to review this request, along with other funding requests, in September 2018.

12) Social Media communication

Cllrs Baxter and Henderson informed the meeting that they had set up a Facebook page for Allendale Parish Council proposed to put a link to it on the Northumberland Association of Parish Councils (NALC) website: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/allendale>

The Council unanimously agreed to launching the site with use being limited to Parish Council business only and providing there is a facility for disabling comments. Enquirers would be signposted to the Parish Council email address: allendaleparishcouncil@outlook.com

13) Accounts for Payment

R Ford (Village Keeper)	£ 55
SWARCO Traffic Ltd (12-month maintenance)	£706.99
Jonah Maurice (Cemetery work)	£440
S H Newsome (Tax rebate)	£291
Great North Air Ambulance (Donation)	£400
Sport Tynedale (Donation)	£316.67
Allen Valleys Promotions Ltd (Donation)	£316.67
Tynedale Hospice at Home (Donation)	£316.67
Allendale Village Hall (room hire)	£ 25
Malcolm Aitchison (waste bins installation)	£ 120

Cllr Quinn proposed that the Council buy a hand mower to be used in the areas not reached by the ride-on mower that was supported by a majority of Councillors. Cllr Howard to go ahead and buy the previously identified machine currently on special offer at £315 plus VAT (including delivery).

Cllr Lee proposed, and Cllr Galley seconded that the Council should accept and sign the revised standing order for Lloyds Bank that adjusts the Clerk's pay to £500 as result of her tax position changing. The Council agreed unanimously.

Income:

Cemetery £300

Allotments £ 10

Bank balances as at **23rd February 2018**

Treasurer's Account - **£48,578.09**

Business 30 Day Notice Account - **£5,228.79**

14) Matters for next month's agenda

Education in the West consultation

Allotments Agreement

The meeting ended at 9.55pm