

## Rennington Parish Council Meeting

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Councillors Present** - K Burdett - Chair  
K Anscombe  
N Anscombe  
L Bosanquet  
W Kenway-Smith  
A Tremlett  
J Watson

**Clerk** - J Wilson

**Apologies** - C Barker

One member of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison were also in attendance.

#### **43/17 Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman received the following declarations of interest on this occasion.

Cllr Watson – Matters Arising – Village Hall Defective Boundary Wall – (Personal: Member of the Village Hall Committee)

Cllr Kenway-Smith – Matters Arising – Village Hall Defective Boundary Wall – (Personal: Member of the Village Hall Committee)

#### **44/17 Public Participation Time**

One member of the public was in attendance, Bev Blythe, to address the committee with concerns regarding traffic in Stamford. Ms Blythe advised that there has been an increase of accidents and near misses due to speeding traffic, which is concerning now that there are eleven children living in Stamford. The Embleton Road junction is 60mph, however they would like to campaign to have the speed limit reduced to 30mph. Ms Blythe raised concerns regarding fly tipping at the allotments.

Cllr Burdett advised Ms Blythe that her concerns have been noted and Councillors will discuss the matter in more detail when considering the Local Transport Plan, he suggested that a speed limit of 20mph would be more appropriate.

County Councillor Pattison advised Ms Blythe that the matter of fly tipping needs to be reported to Northumberland County Council (NCC). She also advised that more than 20 houses are normally required to consider a speed reduction to 30mph, less than 20 houses ad a speed reduction to 40mph could be considered. However, an alternative 20mph limit within the village could be considered.

#### **45/17 County Councillor Updates**

Members unanimously agreed to bring forward item **8. County Councillor Updates.**



County Councillor Pattison provided an update to councillors.

- A job card had been raised for the reinstatement of the road marking SLOW signs on the Rock Road, however they have not been placed where expected.
- A joint Parish Chairman Council meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> September at the Thrunton Trout Fishery which was useful, the next one is due to be held in March where it is hoped a member of Rennington Parish Council can attend.
- The flooding/drainage at the Horseshoes has been resolved following repairs carried out by BT and the broken kerb stone has been replaced.
- A request for 30mph on the B1340 is not feasible, however a 40pmh limit has been provisionally agreed by NCC Traffic Management and a formal consultation will follow in due course.
- Faster Broadband should now be available to all Rennington Village residents.

Cllr Watson advised that the work to refit the kerb stone has been completed but it does not look up to standard and would like this to be inspected by NCC.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) County Councillor Pattison to ask Mitch Young, NCC, to inspect the works carried out by BT to replace the kerb stone

**46/17 Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

**47/17 Matters Arising**

**a. Condition and Repair of Seats in the Parish**

Members were asked to approve a quote for £460 for the installation of the new seats at the Lonnen. Members were advised that the four seats have been ordered, delivery to one site is to be agreed.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Members agreed to the quote provided
- (ii) Delivery of all four seats to be made to the Estate Office in Rock

**b. Repairs and Condition of the Footbridge over the Lonnen**

Members were advised that NCC have confirmed that they are responsible for the Footbridge. They confirmed that works will be programmed to repair the damage.

*RS*

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To request confirmation of when works will be complete

**c. Village Hall Defective Boundary Wall**

The Clerk advised members that she had spoken to an NCC Officer regarding the boundary wall. He advised that this was not an NCC issue and the only advice he could offer was to cordon off the wall to ensure public safety. He suggested contacting a structural engineer for advice and suggested that this was a legal matter and advice should be sought. Members discussed seeking legal advice, and whether it would be appropriate for a letter to be sent stating that the wall is the responsibility of the neighbouring property. Members discussed legal firms in the area and which would be the most appropriate firm to use.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) Cllr Watson to draft a letter of enquiry to a legal firm and circulate to all members prior to sending

**d. Information Security**

Members were advised that an order has been placed for the secondary hard drive and that a date is currently being arranged for the Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman to receive the relevant training.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**e. Annual Review of Standing Orders and Risk Assessments**

Cllr K Anscombe requested that an addition be made to the Standing Orders to include the need to ensure any correspondence sent and left unanswered needs to be followed up. Discussion followed regarding a time frame to be included.

Cllr Burdett proposed three weeks, seconded by Cllr Tremlett.

A vote was taken: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To include in section 9 of the Standing Orders, a reference to any correspondence being followed up if no response is received within three weeks.
- (ii) The Standing Orders and Risk Assessments to be brought to the next meeting for approval. RB

**f. Road Signs – Jingling Bridge**

CLlr K Anscombe advised members that the Road Signs at Jingling Bridge have been done, but those at the top of the hill at the entry to Rock Village are yet to be done.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) CLlr K Anscombe to contact NCC for an update

**g.** Tree Preservation Orders in Rennington

Members were advised that the TPO's requested in Rennington have all been granted.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**h.** Churchyard Maintenance

Members were advised that an email has been received from NCC confirming that they have taken on the maintenance of the Churchyard at All Saints Church in Rennington.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**i.** Highway Flooding

Members were advised that the flooding issues in the village have now been resolved. Works are scheduled to remove mud from drains on a six-monthly basis. Members were asked to monitor the situation and report any issues as they may arise.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**j.** Annual Return 2016/17

Members were advised that the Annual Return was submitted to BDO LLP, further information has since been requested and submitted regarding the variances in the year on year figures. No charges have been incurred from BDO LLP to supply the outstanding audit points.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- k.** County Councillor Update – Resurfacing on the Rock Road and Seats in the Parish



Members were advised that NCC have confirmed that it is proposed to include a surface dressing scheme for Rock Moor House to Rennington in the 2018/19 LTP Programme, and it is likely that structural patching in this area will be undertaken prior to the resurfacing. No date can be given for these works to be carried out. Members were also advised that a request made to County Councillor Pattison for a contribution from her small schemes budget for new seats in the parish was declined. Seats are not classed as a capital asset and the value is below £2000.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**48/17 Financial Matters**

- a. Members were advised that a VAT reclaim had been submitted for £633.04 for 2015/16 and £190.33 for 2016/17. Confirmation has been received from HMRC that both amounts will be refunded.
- b. Members were asked to approve three invoices submitted to Rennington Parish Council for services and/or goods received.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To approve the following invoices –
  - 1. Northumberland County Council – Annual Insurance - £175.07
  - 2. Sally Roberts – Internal Audit - £100.00
  - 3. PerITus Solutions – External Hard Drive - £105.00

**49/17 Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

Members were advised that the following applications have been granted permission –

- 1. 16/04562/FUL – FS Vickers and Son, South East Farm, Rennington, NE66 3RW
- 2. 17/01714/FUL – 19 Rock Home Farm, Rock, NE66 SJ

Members were asked to consider the following application.

- a. 17/02972/FUL – Jingly Hemmel, Pasturehill Plantation, Rock

Members briefly discussed this application as this has been before committee under a different application number.

Members raised concerns regarding the use of the land at Stamford which was refused permission for nine new homes. The site was cleared in preparation and is now being used for storage, an access point to the area has also been put in leading on to the main road on a bend which is dangerous.

**RESOLVED**

*(Handwritten mark)*

- (i) Information duly noted.
- (ii) Cllr Burdett to review the application in full and draft a response to be circulated to members for approval.
- (iii) The Clerk to report the concerns raised regarding access and change of use of land at Stamford.

**50/17 Parish Council Vacancy**

Members were advised that, following the vacancies being advertised, nobody has come forward to fill the vacancies.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.

**51/17 Local Transport Priorities 2018/19**

Members were asked to consider the Local Transport Priorities for 2018/19.

**RESOLVED**

To request the following -

- (i) Introduction of a 20mph speed limit from the entrance of Rennington, leading down towards Church Road and out the village,
- (ii) Reinstatement of road markings on the entrance to Rennington and Rock – speed limit in red band,
- (iii) Introduction of a 20mph speed limit at Stamford.

**52/17 Parish Council Policy Checklist**

Members were provided with a list of policies to consider for review and adoption by the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) The Clerk to send out draft policies for consideration and review prior to the next meeting.

**53/17 Longhoughton Ward Chair's Meeting**

Members were advised that the above meeting had taken place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, there was no representative from Rennington available to attend. Members discussed the grant funding available from the EDF-ER Barmoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, and whether an application could be made from Rennington as it is not clear who can apply.

**RESOLVED**

*nd*

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) Cllr Bosanquet to establish who can apply for grant funding

**54/17 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Town and Parish Council Conference**

Members were advised that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Town and Parish Council Conference is due to take place at County Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017, and were asked who would be available to attend.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) Cllr Burdett to attend

**55/17 Community Led Housing**

Cllr Burdett advised that himself and Cllr's Watson and Kenway-Smith responded collectively to the survey on Community Led Housing as the village is in need of small scale housing as there are now a number of young families in the Village. A meeting regarding this issue is being held on 19<sup>th</sup> September, Cllr's Burdett, Watson and Bosanquet will attend.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**56/17 Councillor Roles and Training Opportunities**

Cllr Burdett advised members that a complaint had been received regarding a councillor acting on behalf of the Parish Council when in fact it was the opinion of the individual rather than the council as a whole. Councillors were reminded that they should only use their councillor title when acting on behalf of the Parish Council and it is agreed at committee to the action required by that individual.

Members were advised that NALC are running an 'Introduction to Local Councils' course for all new councillors to attend.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) A copy of the Good Councillor Guide 2017 to be circulated to Cllr's K Anscombe, N Anscombe and Bosanquet as they are unable to attend the training.

**57/17 Transparency Code Training 2017/18**



Members were advised that NALC are planning to run a number of courses in relation to the Transparency Code.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) A link to the new website to be forwarded to all councillors

**58/17 Salary and Pension Arrangements**

Members were advised that the Declaration of Compliance has been submitted to the Pensions Regulator and acknowledgement of this has been received. Members were also advised that at the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June it was agreed to use the services of NCC for salaries and the hourly rate had been agreed. NCC have since advised that the rate agreed was for 2016 and a new rate applied for 2017, an increase of .104p per hour. Members unanimously agreed to the increase.

**RESOLVED**

- (iii) Information duly noted
- (iv) To contact NCC and advise that the increase has been approved

**59/17 Correspondence**

Members were advised that a letter had been received from Highways England regarding the preferred route announcement for the A1 in Northumberland, a copy of which has been circulated via email. Members were also advised that a letter has been received from NCC regarding the Local Area Council meetings and the importance of representative from the Council attending. The next meeting of the North Northumberland area meeting is Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**60/17 Date of Future Meetings**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Council will be Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Councillors Kenway-Smith and Burdett both gave their apologies for the next meeting.

**61/17 Any Other Urgent Business**

Cllr Watson asked if a request can be made to NCC to have the public Right of Way footpath, in between Rennington Village and Stamford Cottages, restored as it is now overgrown, and also ask if it is possible to have the stile replaced with a gate.

*rd*

Cllr Tremlett raised concerns regarding the hire of the village hall for weddings, members agreed that this should be raised at the Village Hall committee meeting. Cllr Kenway-Smith advised that the Village Hall committee are due to review the lettings policy at their annual meeting in January.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To contact NCC regarding reinstating the path from Rennington to Stamford Cottages and request a stile in place of the gate.

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

 Kenway-Smith