

## Minutes of meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

### **Councillors Present**

K Burdett Chair  
J Watson Vice Chair  
A Tremlett  
K Anscombe

**1 Apologies;** C Barker, L Bosanquet, N Anscombe, Wendy Pattison, County Councillor.

**2 Appointment of Parish Clerk** Amy Smith was appointed as the new clerk to Rennington Parish Council, proposed by AT and seconded by KA.

**3 Declaration of Interest** JW declared an interest in item 10.

**4 No members of the public were present.**

**5 Minutes of the previous meeting** Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were approved. Proposed by KA, seconded by AT, signed by KB.

### **6 Matters Arising**

Community Speed Watch; There are no immediate plans to train Community Speed Watch volunteers as PC Bruce had explained the equipment is being changed but a note had been made of the Parish Council's interest for the future.

Town and County Planning Act 1990 – Use of Land at Stamford Cottages; AT had reviewed previous correspondence with NCC planning regarding the use of land for storage and the temporary access that had been created from the site to the B1340. AT reported that the access of the land should continue to be observed and also the PC should go back to planning to remind about the reinstatement of the land.

Broadband in Rennington Parish; AT had identified and contacted 27 properties as not having superfast broadband and of those had received 11 responses. It had also been identified that 4 properties at the Masons Arms did not have high speed broadband and KB will contact those residents to see if they are interested. KB said that the Parish Council would put an application in to iNorthumberland on everyone's behalf.

Royal Garden Party invitation; KA had put in the application but had received a negative response.

Repainting of Listed Finger post at Rock and other signs in Rennington; It was proposed by AT and seconded by KA to go ahead with the work following quotes from N&F Young for £419 and £100 for work to clean, repair and repaint with protective materials.

Parking on Church Road; A site meeting had been held with Richard McKenzie, NCC Traffic manager, WP, KB and JW, to discuss parking on Church Road. It was agreed that NCC will seek to put in a proper hard surface parking area rather than the plastic area currently in place, and to extend the parking area. It was also agreed to cut back the overhanging hedge – NCC has cut this back but the Parish Council had understood it would take it right back to the wall to allow more parking but this has not been done. The Parish Council will write to Mr McKenzie asking if the hedge will be cut right back to the wall and if he can confirm that funding will be made available to create the hard stand. Mr McKenzie was also going to write to The Grange asking that staff use their parking area.

**7 Financial Matters;** Two cheques listed on the agenda were signed (Northumberland Community Voluntary Action for job advert for clerk £25 and the Northumberland Estates rent £425) and an additional invoice of £312 inc VAT for Alderson Law solicitors enlisted to establish boundary wall ownership. Proposed KA, seconded AT.

**8 Town and County Planning Act 1990;** Application 18/00439/FUL Rock Moor Farm Garage and 18/00268/FUL Gul-Ha Rock South Farm; KB returned no objections to NCC.

Application 17/04589/LBC North Farm Rennington – KB reported the majority were in favour of the development 5-3 and this was reported to NCC. KB raised concern that the original plan was for 15 houses (including 3 affordable homes) following Northumberland Estates meeting with the community and taking on board their views. However the resubmitted application was reduced to 8 larger homes with no affordable housing. KB felt that the Parish Council response should have represented the views of parishioners made at the meeting with Northumberland Estates. He proposed in future where any significant/large planning application fell with a response date between meetings, the Parish Council should request an extension from NCC. He also suggested that the Parish Council's standing orders should be changed to state that any member can ask for a planning application to be debated at a meeting and that for any application all councillors should make individual comments before a response is returned to NCC. It was proposed that these changes be adopted at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that a letter would be written to Northumberland Estates highlighting the Parish Council's concern at being let down by the planning application following the original amendments to the plans which had taken into account residents wishes for affordable housing. It is hoped to open up discussion with Northumberland Estates regarding a community benefit for Rennington such as affordable homes or land to use for pedestrians and dog walking.

**9 County Councillor Updates;** The County Councillor's report had been circulated and read. It included WP's involvement in the site visit to Church Road to discuss parking. In addition WP had reported that Rock road is to be resurfaced and she requested that councillors are alert to reporting potholes to NCC when they see them. KA questioned the wisdom of patch-up pothole repairs which he said did not stand the test of time.

**10 Village Hall Boundary wall;** A search of title deeds by Solicitors Alderson Law identified that Mr G White may not be responsible for the boundary wall. However the lease documents do not show the wall belongs to the village hall either. KB has written to Northumberland Estates asking them to look at this discrepancy and in light of the solicitor's letter will look to progress the matter with the Estates.

**11 Councillor Resignation;** Wendy Kenway-Smith had resigned from the Parish Council. KB expressed thanks on behalf of the councillors for her service.

**12 Vacancies on the Parish Council;** A Public Notice of Co-Option will be put on display on the notice boards asking for anyone to come forward who is interested in joining the Parish Council.

### **13 Correspondence**

The Great British Spring Clean was holding an event at the end of the month. Following discussions about littering, it was proposed the clerk write to the highways department highlighting the rubbish on the A1 from the Rock and South Charlton turn-offs to Alnwick and request whether this can be cleaned.

**14 Any Other Business;** There was no other business.

**15 Date of Next Meeting;** Thursday April 5 2018

