

## Rennington Parish Council Meeting

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Councillors Present** - K Burdett - Chair  
C Barker  
L Bosanquet  
A Tremlett  
J Watson

**Clerk** - J Wilson

**Apologies** - K Anscombe  
N Anscombe  
W Kenway-Smith

Six members of the public and Northumberland County Council officer John Cooper were also in attendance.

#### **62/17 Public Participation Time**

Members unanimously agreed to bring forward items **14. Broadband in Rennington, 11. Highways Issues, 13. Stamford Farm – Traffic Concerns** and **15. Community Led Housing.**

##### **a. Broadband in Rennington**

John Cooper, NCC, addressed the committee regarding the issues surrounding the introduction of Broadband to all homes within the Parish. John advised that nationally there should be 95% coverage by the end of 2017, Northumberland being behind with the expectation that there will be 95% coverage by the end of 2018. NCC are hoping to secure further funding to expand the service beyond 95%. There are ten properties in Rennington which are not connected to the new cabinet, this has been flagged with the operational team at BT Open Reach, who have committed to completing this by the end of March 2018, however NCC are pushing for the end of December 2017. The supply to Stamford will need to come from Embleton, however the exact number of homes is not clear so further investigation will be required, once established it will take up to two years to get a supply to these homes.

John advised that as this is a central government initiative the supply has been on the basis of value for money, therefore areas with a bigger impact have been serviced as a priority to maximise coverage.

John Cooper and one member of the public left the meeting at 8pm.

##### **b. Highways Issues**

Cllr Burdett advised members that a consultation leaflet had been delivered to all 68 homes in the village, of which 28 responses were received. The leaflet was to establish the views of residents on the proposals made by NCC to reduce the speed limit on the

B1340 to 40mph, as well as the views on the reduction of speed through the village to 20mph and parking and traffic management on Church Road.

The following responses were received –

1. B1340 – speed limit reduction to 40mph

18 For, 10 Against – reasons for included that the road is dangerous, against was because it was felt it is impossible to reach 60mph and it is a waste of money.

2. Speed limit reduction to 20mph through the village

17 For, 10 Against, 1 Abstention – reasons for included road safety issues, against was people won't stick to limit if not policed.

3. Parking and traffic management on Grange Road

14 For, 8 Against, 6 Abstention – reasons for included difficulty for emergency vehicles using the road.

Cllr Burdett advised that if the 20mph were to be introduced in the village, the B1340 would automatically become a 40mph road as highways will not allow a road to go from 60 to 20mph. NCC will need to carry out a parking survey n Church Road prior to any restrictions being introduced.

**RESOLVED**

a. Information duly noted

**c. Stamford Farm – Traffic Concerns**

Katie Robertson addressed the committee to request an element of traffic management at Stamford, either a speed reduction or signage to raise awareness of farm animals crossing the road. Cllr Burdett advised that the Parish Council really needs to know exactly what is requested so NCC can be contacted to seek advice on what is appropriate.

**RESOLVED**

a. Information duly noted

b. Ms Robertson to speak to residents and advise what traffic management is required.

**d. Community Led Housing**

Cllr Burdett advised members that he had attended a meeting with Andy Dean regarding the Community Led Housing scheme. It was confirmed at the meeting that a substantial amount of money is available to introduce scheme which allow the local community to decide who should benefit from affordable housing in the area. Wooler currently have 18 homes , the rent from which goes to the community to disperse as they see appropriate. Andy Dean has confirmed that he is willing to speak with the council to go

in to more detail to how the scheme works and whether there would be a need for it in Rennington.

**RESOLVED**

- a. Information duly noted

**63/17 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)

**64/17 Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Cllr Burdett advised that Cllr's K and N Anscombe did not agree with the minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> September as they believed that a request made by Cllr K Anscombe had not been included in the minutes or actioned. The Clerk read out an email from Cllr K Anscombe detailing his disagreement.

Cllr Bosanquet proposed that the minutes be deferred until the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Tremlett.

A vote was taken: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each member, be deferred for approval until the next meeting on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**65/17 Matters Arising**

- a. Repairs and Condition of the Footbridge over the Lonnen

Members were advised that NCC have confirmed that the repair to the Footbridge have been carried out.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- b. Village Hall Defective Boundary Wall

Cllr Watson advised that he has drafted a letter to be sent to establish the costs involved in seeking legal advice. Cllr Burdett had spoken with the NCC legal team who have advised that due to cost it would be difficult for a small parish due to the costs involved in taking the matter to court. Cllr Tremlett advised that following an informal chat with

Mr White, a discussion with both parties would be welcomed. Cllr Watson disagreed with this as a decision taken at the last meeting was to establish costs and Standing Orders state that a decision should not be revoked within six months.

Cllr Burdett proposed to deferring the letter being sent for three weeks to allow Cllr's Burdett and Tremlett to speak with Mr White, if this does not resolve the situation then the letter will be sent. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bosanquet.

A vote was taken: 4 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To speak with Mr White in the next three weeks to see if the matter can be resolved, if not,
- (iii) Send the letter drafted by Cllr Watson to seek an estimate of legal costs

c. Road Signs – Jingling Bridge

Members were advised that the slow signs are now in place, however the brow of the hill has only been done on one side. This is due to NCC only replacing what was originally there and not any additional signs.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

d. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Use of Land at Stamford Cottages

Members were advised that a holding response had been received from NCC regarding a request for clarification on the use of land at Stamford Cottages confirming that a response will be issued within 28 days.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To chase with NCC if no response is received within 28 days from the date of the holding response.

e. Longhoughton Ward Chairs Meeting – Grant Funding

Cllr Bosanquet advised members that the Barmoor Windfarm Grant Funding project will accept applications if the benefactors are within three mile of Ellingham. This could include people who use the Village Hall in Rennington or the Cricket Club at Rock who live within a three mile radius.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

- (ii) Members to contact individuals who may be eligible to use to apply for a grant

f. Any Other Business – Reinstatement of Path – Rennington to Stanford Cottages

Cllr Burdett advised members that the NCC Footpath Officer will come out to assess the work required to reinstate the path in due course.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted

**66/17 Financial Matters**

- a. Members were advised that the second half precept of £2,000 has been received and were asked to approve three invoices submitted to Rennington Parish Council for services and/or goods received.
- b. Members were asked to approve and accept the External Auditors report for the 2016/17 Annual Return.

A proposal was made to approve and accept the External Auditors Report by Cllr Bosanquet, seconded by Cllr Barker

A vote was taken: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

- c. Members were asked to consider and future items for expenditure for inclusion in the draft budget for 2018/19.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To approve the following invoices –
  1. Northumberland County Council – Set-up fee and Clerks Salary - £1,086.06
  2. Marmax Recycled Products – 4 x Benches - £1,438.08
  3. Brian Connolly – Base preparation and installation of benches - £460.00
- (iii) To consider the following in the budget setting process-
  1. New Sign at the railway bridge
  2. A noticeboard at Stamford
  3. Restoring the footpath at North Farm
  4. Restore the sign post at Rock
  5. Payment to the Information Commissioners Office to register for Data Protection

**67/17 Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

Members were advised that the following application has been granted permission –

1. 17/02126/FUL – The Grange, Church Road, Rennington

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted.

**68/17 County Councillor Update**

Members noted the update received from County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

**69/17 Standing Orders and Risk Assessments**

A proposal was made to approve the Standing Orders and Risk Assessments by Cllr Bosanquet, seconded by Cllr Tremlett.

A vote was taken: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To approve the Standing Orders and Risk Assessments.

**70/17 Parish Council Policy Checklist**

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

A proposal was made to adopt the policies by Cllr Tremlett, seconded by Cllr Barker.

A vote was taken: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

**RESOLVED – to adopt the following policies –**

- (i) Financial Regulations
- (ii) Disciplinary Procedure
- (iii) Complaints Policy and Procedure
- (iv) Data Protection Policy
- (v) Code of Conduct
- (vi) Freedom of Information Policy
- (vii) Retention of Documents Policy

**71/17 Consultation – B1340 – Introduction of 40mph Speed Limit**

Members discussed the results and agreed that of the responses received the majority were in favour of the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the B1340 and a 20mph limit through the village.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) To submit the following comment to NCC –

*Following consultation with residents in Rennington, the Parish Council support the introduction of a reduction of speed to 40mph on the B1340, in conjunction with the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the village itself.*

**72/17 Correspondence**

Cllr Burdett advised members that a letter had been received from Privy Council Office regarding the 12 month notice to closure of the second section of the Churchyard.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) Copy of the letter to be set to NCC for information

**73/17 Date of Future Meetings**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Council will be Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm.

**74/17 Any Other Urgent Business**

Members were advised of a road closure in Denwick from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December from 7am to 4pm.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) Information duly noted
- (ii) To advertise the road closure in the Village noticeboard.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

