

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on 17th May 2018

1. **Election of Chair-** Cllr K Burdett asked for nominations to elect the chair of the Parish Council. KB was nominated by JW and seconded by LB.
2. **Election of Vice Chair;** to elect the vice chair - the new chair asked for nominations. JW was nominated by AT and seconded by LB.
3. **Apologies for Absence;** C Barker, N Anscombe.
4. **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.
5. **Public Participation Time** No members of the public were present.
6. **Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Thursday 5th April 2018** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by LB and seconded by AT, signed by KB.
7. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

* Northumberland Local Plan Spring consultation response; The clerk had returned a letter on behalf of RPC instead of completing the online survey as it had been agreed this enabled a more detailed response as set out in April's minutes.

* Letter to Northumberland Estates regarding North Farm; It has been agreed for a representative to meet in Rennington with the chair and vice-chair, to discuss future developments, who will report back to the PC.

* Letters to Highways; littering, gullies; KB reported officers had been out to pick litter-up on the A1 following a letter sent from RPC but it was felt this was an ongoing issue. The clerk had written twice regarding gullies being cleaned and was awaiting a response.

*Village Hall Boundary Wall; Northumberland Estates had confirmed they were happy for RPC to send their correspondence regarding ownership of the wall to its solicitors. RPC will await the solicitor's response.

*Church Road; KB reported that he was awaiting Richard MacKenzie coming back with a definite plan for work starting but promised this year.

*Speed monitoring strips; A request had been made to Mr MacKenzie for speed monitoring strips at three locations including Stamford, which LB highlighted as particularly bad, and County Councillor WP said she would raise again as she was due to meet with him.

*Church Road footpath; KB was due to meet with Philip Bradley at the footpath to look at the overgrowth.

8. **County Councillor Updates;** WP presented her report which had been previously circulated. WP reported that the Rock road to the A1 had been resurfaced but said she could request that the area at Wisplaw is tarmacked. Councillors raised concern about the continuing amount of potholes on the roads. KB also asked WP if she would feedback to Mr Mackenzie concerns that the edge of the potholes were not being sealed. WP highlighted the availability of E-books and magazines available through Northumberland library services. She also highlighted that Sylvia Pringle of iNorthumberland was keen to encourage use of I-pads among older people and would be willing to come out and talk to interested groups. WP also said that Amazon Alexa is a potentially useful tool for those living on their own in terms of safety.
9. **Annual Review of Standing Orders and Risk Assessments** (circulated). KB said the Standing Orders had been updated on April 5. It was proposed the Register of Assets be kept as a separate document from the Standing Orders. Proposed by JW and seconded by KA. The Risk Assessment

had been reviewed the previous year and the risks remained the same. Proposed by AT and seconded by LB.

10. Financial Matters

Annual Return and end of year accounts (circulated)for approval. KB read out the internal audit report completed by Sally Roberts. It highlighted that VAT needed to be reclaimed for the financial year 2017/18 and that £100 reclaimed the previous year needed to be transferred to the village hall fund part of the bank balance. Otherwise she stated that the accounts balanced and were supported by invoices and receipts and appropriate financial controls were in place. KB read out the governance and accounting statements which were agreed. KB read out the Exemption Certificate which under new accounting rules for Parish Councils with an income and expenditure of under £25,000 is all that must be returned to the external auditing body PKF LittleJohn. The Annual Return and Accounts will still be displayed on public notice boards for a statutory period from Monday 11th June to Friday 20th July and on the Parish Council's website.

*JW asked that the clerk invoice Rennington Village Hall for the second rent payment made to Northumberland Estates.

Statement of Bank Account Balances; The balances had been circulated and agreed.

Approval for payment of invoices and additional invoices given by KB and LB; One cheque was raised to settle an invoice of £100 from Mrs Roberts for the internal audit. Another cheque was raised for £53.96 for clerk to cover expenses; travel costs for three Parish Council meetings (Feb, April, May) and four forthcoming (June, Sept, Oct, Dec) 12 2nd class stamps and £17 printer cartridge.

11. Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Current Applications;

Applications granted approval since April PC Meeting; 18/00923/FUL Northfield House, Rennington, Granted permission for extension, 18/00647/FUL Erection of agricultural building, Rock Midstead.

KB reported the application for housing at Embleton, for which the PC had prepared a comment, had been withdrawn.

12. **Correspondence received** The clerk had received a date for the next meeting of North Northumberland Local Area Council on Thursday 24th May at Alnwick.

13. Any Other Business

Data Protection; LB had attended training on the new data protection law and reported that at present there was little the Parish Council needed to do other than to put a privacy policy on emails. The clerk will be able to access an online toolkit to do this. LB also advised that the PC needed to ensure all required information published on the website and that permission must be obtained from Parish Councillors for use of their personal information, which has been done previously.

AT will do extra cuts on the village green.

14. **Date of Next Meeting**; The next meeting will be held on Thursday 28th June, 2018 at 7.30pm. The meeting was closed at 8.35pm.