

Minutes of meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday 18th October 2018

Councillors Present; K Burdett Chair, J Watson Vice Chair, A Tremlett, L Bosanquet, C Barker.

1 Apologies; County Councillor W Pattison.

2 Declaration of Interest LB declared an interest in item 8. JW declared an interest in Rennington Village Hall Boundary Wall item 6 (on issued agenda).

3 Three members of the public were present.

18/03488/COU;

Change of use of part of farm yard and 2 buildings from agricultural use to mixed use agriculture/woodchip production, drying and storage facility (retrospective)

Change of use of land to mixed use agriculture/wood store (retrospective)

LB declared an interest and left the room

Nicola Bowen, a resident of Eglington Parish, had requested to address the PC on her, and her partner J Douglas's concerns regarding the application for woodchip production at Rock Midstead farm which borders with their property. Ms Bowen stated that they had three main concerns and she had presented a written statement, which was circulated to councillors earlier on the day of the meeting, setting these out. Another member of the public and resident who attended the meeting also raised the same concerns.

Noise-Ms Bowen stated that the noise from the wood chip production since it began 18 months ago was incessant and continued into the evening from early morning and could be heard through the double glazing. She also said the noise of the lorries travelling to and from the site had impacted on them.

Traffic generation-She said they had observed between 20-30 lorries travelling to and from the site on a daily basis over this summer.

Highway safety-Ms Bowen is concerned the increase in and size of traffic generated by the woodchip production which she says presents a clear safety issue on a zig-zag country-road not built for heavy traffic. Debris also falls on the road from the lorries.

Ms Bowen and another resident stressed their case strongly and said while they didn't wish to see the business stop and were used to noise associated with farm machinery this was on a completely different level.

Ms Bowen explained that they had been to NCC with their concerns and that they would be writing in response to the application.

KB read out a statement from the farm manager which refuted a suggestion that his father-in-law had complained about the noise.

Rennington Parish Council were of a mind to raise no objection to this retrospective planning application but following discussions regarding residents complaints the council agreed to respond to NCC asking that before any decision is taken on this application that accurate noise levels are established and traffic issues are monitored prior to a decision being taken.

Any action that can be taken to mitigate identified issues should be included in any decision, such as but not limited to realignment of the road, methods of reducing any excessive noise along with possible restriction on operating hours.

Until resident's complaint issues are established and satisfied by monitoring, in order to clearly establish the levels of any disturbance from these operations, with possible measures and actions necessary to mitigate identified issues, the council would be unable to support the application. This was proposed by AT and seconded by KB.

The chair urged any residents with planning issues to address concerns with the Parish Council.

The members of the public left the meeting. LB returned to the room. LB offered other councillors a site visit to see the woodchip production and the Gin Palace which is another expanding business. It was agreed this would be useful and would be arranged in November.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th September were approved. Proposed by LB and seconded by AT and signed by KB.

5 Resignation of Councillors The chair had received letters of resignation from Councillors Kevin and Nicky Anscombe. He had accepted their resignations on behalf of the PC. KB highlighted that the PC was now desperately short of councillors. Notices asking for parishioners to come forward will be displayed on the village noticeboards and on the website and the correct procedures followed.

6 Matters Arising

Boundary Wall – The clerk had sent out the letter and documents to Mr White agreed at the last meeting and is awaiting a response.

Northumberland Estates North Farm- A response from Mr Barnes with showing two versions of plans for a smaller housing development on the land was considered by the PC but there was concern that although self-build this would ultimately not include affordable housing. It was agreed Cllr Watson will draft a response to Mr Barnes raising this concern that the proposed plans are not what the PC was looking for and asking for a further meeting. The PC would like to see community led housing with a social landlord.

Christmas Tree County Councillors Pattison's proposal to provide Christmas trees from her member's budget had been declined by NCC. However since RPC had agreed to provide lights and installation for a tree if she could fund the tree, Cllr Barker suggested that as there was interest in the village the PC should standby their previous decision that if villagers made donations to pay for the tree itself, RPC would consider paying costs for an electrician and lighting, if necessary. This was proposed by AT and seconded by LB and Cllr Barnes volunteered to garner support and donations within 10 days. The village hall committee will be contacted for their consent.

Speed limits The clerk had returned a response regarding consultation on the speed limit but had not yet received a response. KB highlighted that a pothole reported on Church Road had been filled by NCC the following day.

Church Road Cllr Watson asked that the clerk chase up with Richard McKenzie at NCC the planned parking improvements which are due to take place in this financial year.

7 Financial Matters;

Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix B) – Approved by LB and seconded by AT.

Approval of invoice made between meetings;

Approval for payment of invoices; Clerk's payment to NCC for August and September £308.34.

Approval of any additional invoices received since preparation of the agenda. Clerk's reimbursement £17 for printer cartridge.

Direct debit -The clerk confirmed a direct debit for the clerk's payment to NCC was now in place.

Laptop Cloud back-up- it was agreed the PC would continue to use the hard-drive to backup files rather than pay a fee to install Cloud back-up. It was agreed that to pay a £45 call-out fee to Peritus solutions to resolve the back-up problem

8 Town and County Planning Act 1990;

Current Applications; There were no current applications.

Applications granted approval since September PC Meeting; Granted-front porch, Rock Home Farm, 18/02663/Ful.

9 County Councillor Updates; WP's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was some discussion on the clarification in WP's report that Middlemoor Windfarm money is not available to apply for outside of Eglingham Parish.

11 Correspondence received; The chair had attended a meeting of Chair's of Parish Council's where the clerk of Craster PC put forward a template he has provided councillors whether to consider correct responses for planning applications. Cllr Burdett thought this was a good idea and the clerk will circulate to councillors.

12. Any Other Business There was no other business.

13. Date of Next Meeting; Thursday December 6th 2018.