

Minutes of meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday 6th December 2018

Councillors Present; K Burdett Chair, J Watson Vice Chair, A Tremlett, L Bosanquet, C Barker. County Councillor W Pattison. Four members of the public were also present.

1 Apologies; There were no apologies.

2 Declaration of Interest JW declared an interest on item 6 for Rennington Village Hall ,CB declared an interest on item 6 for the Christmas Tree, LB declared an interest on item 6 for Rock Post Box.

3 Public Participation time In accordance with Section 3.5 of the Rennington Parish Council Standing Orders members of the public present may address the Council or Committee at this point on the agenda. The Council/Committee reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date.

- A member of the public raised the following queries; he confirmed that the carol singing would take place around the Christmas tree. 2. It was asked how a 20mph limit in Rennington would be policed when a 30mph limit is not adhered to. 3. It was raised that in the 1990s Alnwick District Council had agreed to provide a parking space for church users on Church Road.

4 Village Green, Rennington CCTV survey findings report and proposed works at South Farm, by Drew Carr-Ellison, Indica Properties Ltd.

Mr Carr-Ellison addressed the meeting introducing himself and his company. He explained his background and his desire to be a responsible local developer. He stated that it is his intentions to start work in the New Year for the South Farm build project and estimated it will take between 12-13 months (a maximum of 15 months). He said that he wants to keep communication open and to follow regeneration plan and take into account residents of the village. He explained the plan is to put up a hoarding which could be painted green/brown to reduce noise and dust coming from the build. He went on to explain the exploratory work on the village green to discover drainage/storm water run-off, had uncovered an old culvert. He said further investigations would be carried out to check it is running through but the plan would be to install a manhole cover making it operational, and so providing improved drainage, and the area re-turfed. In response to questions Mr Carr-Ellison said there would be car parking on site during the build and a wheel washing facility. He said the first operation on site is intended to be the construction of a boundary wall dividing the development from The Mill property. KB thanked Mr Carr-Ellison for his attendance and said the PC appreciated being kept informed.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th October were approved. Proposed by AT and seconded by LB and signed by KB, with an amendment to item 6 where Cllr Colin Barker was referred to as Cllr Barnes.

6 Matters Arising

Boundary Wall –There had been no further correspondence. It was agreed that KB will write to NCC's building control to see if they will intervene.

Northumberland Estates North Farm -JW will chase this up.

Christmas Tree – CB reported that the placing of the Christmas Tree on the village green and the support for the project in the village had been very successful. £200 had been raised within the village which also covered the cost of the lights and the electrician. LB congratulated CB on getting the project off the ground in such a short space of time. She suggested next year a collection box could be placed in the pub as not everyone had been invited to contribute but CB said a mailshot had gone out to all residents and a box had been in the pub. KB also gave thanks to CB. It was agreed that the PC will pay for the electrician plus vat, proposed by KB and seconded by CB.

Speed limits -KB explained a proposal had just gone out to residents from NCC for a 20mph limit in Rennington. He explained that a 40mph limit would be introduced on the outskirts of the village as it is not legal to go from 60mph to 20mph. In response to comments from councillors and a query from a resident KB explained that evidence has shown that a 20mph limit, although not enforceable, will help to reduce speeds and at least get people sticking to 30mph. WP discussed that a 20mph limit had caused problems in Christon Bank as traffic would slow too quickly to meet the limit and other cars will overtake vehicles observing the 20mph.

Rock Post Box- KB explained there had been some confusion with NCC but that Richard McKenzie had confirmed work would be programmed in.

Casual Vacancy-KB confirmed notices had been displayed in the Parish but no one had come forward at this point. LB had in mind to approach a resident in Rock.

7 Parking area in Church Road- KB explained that the work the Parish Council had asked to be done was different to the work that had been carried out. The PC had requested a hard standing area and not to have grasscrete because of the problem of mud in wet/rainy periods but that this is what had been laid and the area was already unusable. Richard McKenzie had suggested that the PC give the grasscrete a chance. WP offered to allocate some of her capital allowance next year towards a new surface if the grasscrete is not successful. It was proposed by JW and seconded by AT and agreed that the PC will write to Richard McKenzie proposing that the PC will allocate £2000 of its own funds towards a hard stand parking area instead of the grasscrete if NCC will fund the remaining amount. KB addressed a residents concerns that a parking area had been historically promised to church users. KB said that the work that had been done and will be done did not affect or change any church parking, but that the PC is simply trying to add to what parking is already there.

8 Highway Drainage maintenance -JW raised that two gullies at the top corner of the village are choked with silt. The clerk will contact NCC and ask for the gullies in the village to be inspected and maintained.

9 Wisplaw Farm entrance – It was raised that the entrance was broken up and loose stones had been put in to fill holes but these were breaking loose and coming onto the main road. Tarmac had been dumped on the corner but the entrance needs to be tarmacked. The clerk will contact highways.

10 Signposts in the Parish- CB raised that the signposts in the parish are all dirty. It was agreed that the number of signs needing cleaned should be identified and then KB will seek a quote for someone to wash them.

11 Financial Matters;

Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix B),

Approval for payment of invoices; JW said the PC should continue support the Northumberland and Newcastle Society with a subscription payment of £25 as they pick up on issues affecting the area. All invoices were agreed.

Members are provided for information with a budget report up to 31st October 2018, see appendix C.

Members are asked to consider any future items of expenditure for inclusion in the draft budget for 2018/19. The budget report was accepted with an amendment that the second annual £425 rent paid to Northumberland Estates by RPC still needed too be reimbursed by RVH and the clerk would invoice RVH for this sum.

In addition it was recognised that £2000 had now been allocated towards the parking area on Church Road. CB proposed the PC should pay for a Christmas tree next year but JW felt if there was a willingness there for a tree it should be left as a community effort. KB proposed this be discussed in June. Other additions were an estimated £100 for road signage cleaning and £75 for website renewal fees. KB proposed that the Precept request to NCC was kept at £4000 for 2019/20 and this was seconded by JW and agreed.

12 Town and County Planning Act 1990;

Current Applications; There were no plans.

13 County Councillor Updates; WP's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. WP also thanked CB for arranging the Christmas tree in Rennington and said how much she had enjoyed the light switch on. She also explained about the Warm Hub scheme referenced in her newsletter.

14 Correspondence received; The clerk had received correspondence regarding proposed resurfacing work to the A1 at Wandylaw in 2019 although it will cause little disruption and the majority of work will now take place in 2020/21.

15. Any Other Business; LB set a date for the other councillors to tour Rock Farm, Jan 7.

16. Date of Next Meeting; Thursday January 10th 2019.