

Minutes of meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday 21st February 2019

Councillors Present; K Burdett Chair, J Watson Vice Chair, A Tremlett, L Bosanquet, C Barker and J McQueen. Two members of the public were also present.

1. Declaration of Acceptance of Office: Parishioner James McQueen left the room and it was unanimously agreed to accept him as a new councillor. Cllr McQueen was welcomed back into the room. His completed paperwork was handed to the clerk.

2. Apologies; County Councillor Wendy Pattison sent her apologies as she was attending a Northumberland County Council meeting.

3. Declaration of Interest JW declared an interest on item 6 for Rennington Village Hall.

4. 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 declared an interest in Church View and development issues in the village and as a newcomer to the parish expressed an interest in how communication could be improved and offered his support in a potential newsletter. The chair confirmed that the PC had previously produced a newsletter but that changes in clerks had affected its production but it was something the PC will consider again.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th January 2019 were approved. Proposed by CB and seconded by AT and signed by KB.

6. Matters Arising

Boundary Wall – The clerk read out correspondence from NCC’s building surveyor in response to a letter from the PC. He had inspected the wall and did not consider it to be an immediate danger. A security fence under rental, currently protecting members of the public from any potential collapse of a defective section of neighbouring property boundary wall, was considered to be retained and JW to obtain a quote for cost of purchase.

Northumberland Estates North Farm – Mr Barnes of Northumberland Estates had replied to the clerk to acknowledge receipt of the PC’s letter concerning a second proposed development, following the last PC meeting, and confirmed he will be in touch.

Church Road Parking- The clerk had written to Mr McKenzie before the previous meeting and was still awaiting a response. It was agreed she will chase this up.

Highway Drainage Maintenance- It was confirmed highways had been out and cleared the drains.

Royal Garden Party- The chair confirmed that David Barraclough’s nomination to attend the Royal Garden Party had been picked.

Signposts in the Parish- C Barker apologised as he had not cleaned the signs yet due to illness.

7. Local Government Ethical Standards-The chair reported that NALC had asked for feedback on the standards setting out what to do in the event of a complaint against a Parish Council. As the standards exist it states that a complaint against an individual should be dealt with by the individual’s line manager which on the PC would be the chair. K Burdett suggested that in the event the complaint was made

against the chair another member would need to deal with it. The clerk will write to NALC with this feedback.

8. Northumberland Local Draft Plan (Regulation 19)- Parish Council members had been able to view copies online and a hard copy if desired. Correspondence had also been received from the Northumberland and Newcastle Society which is concerned that Northumberland County Council has ignored its comments, supported by a number of Parish Councils, regarding allowing land to be used for wind farms. KB proposed that the PC support the Northumberland and Newcastle Society in trying to get NCC to amend the local plan. This was agreed unanimously and the chair will draft a response to NCC and the clerk will inform the N&N Society of its support.

9. Northern Power- KB proposed that a letter of thanks is written to Northern Power and the individual on call for their rapid response in dealing with a power cut to the home of a Rennington resident, responding within 15 minutes of the initial phone call. This followed an agreement following the bad weather last year to respond quickly in the event of a power cut to those on a vulnerable list.

10. Financial Matters;

Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix B, circulated).

Approval for payment of invoices; £9 for Clerk's travel expenses in January and February.
Proposed LB, seconded CB.

An invoice for electrical work for the Christmas tree lights had been received but KB asked CB that he contact the electrician and ask him to address the invoice to the Parish Council. The clerk had not yet received a copy of NALC pay scales for 2019-20 so this will be considered again at another meeting.

11. Town and County Planning Act 1990;

RPC's response to planning application 18/04410/OUT 8 new houses, North of Grange Park, Rennington.

This outline application was received on the eve of the previous meeting. Councillor's responses were submitted to the clerk via email and a response prepared and sent to NCC.

The chair reminded councillors that when submitting a response this should be emailed to the chair and clerk and all other councillors, and should firstly state clearly whether or not they are supporting the application.

In response to this application it was formally recorded at the meeting that all councillors were against the application "in its current form" due to concerns expressed by all that there is no affordable housing. There was also concern on road safety grounds regarding access to the site from the B1340.

There were no further applications.

KB asked LB if there was an application for a second shed at Rock Farm and she confirmed that this would be as a storage shed and had been made as an addition to the original application.

The clerk was asked to chase up with the highways department the temporary entrance (now fenced off) to land east of Stamford Cottages (formerly the Masons Arms) as the highway verge has still not been reinstated. The clerk will ask how NCC's Planning Enforcement Officer is progressing with reinstatement of the land used as a temporary site compound.

12. County Councillor Updates; WP's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. KB

highlighted her report on NCC's decision not to introduce a 20mph speed limit in Rennington. KB said NCC had not received a significant response to their survey. It was agreed that the clerk will write to NCC and ask that a speed limit below the national limit be introduced at Stamford as traffic on the road was fast.

13. Correspondence received; An update from Drew Carr-Ellison regarding works on Rennington Village Green had been circulated prior to the meeting and was appreciated and the area will be

reseeded. The clerk had asked Mr Carr-Ellison to keep all immediate residents updated aswell and he had confirmed this was the case.

Rennington War Memorial - A letter had been received from Judy Weston of PCC secretary for The Parish of Rennington and Rock, regarding the cleaning of Rennington War Memorial. KB said that he would seek advice from the War Graves Commission before any cleaning is undertaken as JW believed there is guidance that suggests overcleaning of the stone can cause damage. The clerk will respond to Ms Weston.

NALC is planning training for the new online VAT system but at present the suggested date is during the working week. The clerk will contact NALC and ask that a time out of working hours might be considered as many clerks are otherwise employed.

Gritting- KB had received an email from WP regarding the road from Rock to Rennington which is not on the gritting route. She had been contacted by a resident of Rock who had an accident on the road in the snow the previous week. The clerk will contact NCC to ask that the route is gritted as it is also believed to be a school bus route.

14. Any Other Business; JM queried whether Rennington has an appointed First Aid Responder. KB said that this was something that was done by the Ambulance Service but that many villagers had regular training on how to use the defibrillator.

15. Date of Next Meeting; Thursday 4th April 2019.