

Rennington Parish Council

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PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Rennington Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday August 9th, 2021 in Rennington Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Robert Dixon (Chair), Karl Neilsen (Vice Chair), Lalage Bosanquet, Stephen Baggott, Alan Tremlett

In attendance: Clerk Deb Still, NCC Cllr Wendy Pattison and 4 members of the public.

117/21 Apologies for Absence – None

118/21 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Tremlett informed the council of a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 129/21 ii as he has trees on his land opposite the village green that have also been subject to complaint by a member of the public regarding overhanging of the highway.

119/21 Public Participation Time – four members of the public attended. There were no public questions.

120/21 Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on Thursday June 24th and on Thursday July 29th 2021 – the Minutes of both meetings were RESOLVED as true records.

121/21 Matters Arising from the previous meeting

i) Move to online banking has been finalised. The Clerk can now set up payments to be authorised by Cllrs Bosanquet and Tremlett.

ii) Loumar Lodge, Hollyburn, Heatherfield and Rivendale Cottages update re incorrect designation of addresses – two households have replied to say they would like to keep the status quo. No other residents have indicated so far that they would like the Parish Council to make any representations on their behalf.

iii) Communication with Northumberland Estates - collapsed wall on the Lonnen. Work has been commenced to repair the wall by the tenant.

iv) Correspondence has been received from a resident regarding item 108/21 ii) from 24th June 2021 where the minutes stated that 'there have been no complaints from the 2 properties that may be affected by this application'. NOTED that one of the neighbouring properties had made representation to the planning authority but it had not been attached to the planning application by NCC and was not visible to those checking against planning application 20/04399/FUL.

v) The Clerk is updating and reordering the RPC website although there are limitations as to content and headings due to the way the PC websites have

been set up. Declarations of Interest for each Councillor have been uploaded and the Neighbourhood Plan heading is now live and will be added to over the coming weeks. A member of the public has offered to work on some content for the website.

131/21 County Councillor's Report

This item was taken out of order as Cllr Pattison had to leave the meeting at 7.50pm. NOTED that the Councillor's Report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pattison drew attention to three items:

- 1) Plant a Tree for the Jubilee to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. With a focus on planting sustainably, the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will encourage planting of trees to create for future generations. Individuals or groups can purchase a tree that they can register on the QGC map and a plaque can also be ordered.
- 2) Health Watch Northumberland – an independent statutory body that is the local health and social care champion. Impartial and confidential, they will listen to any feedback, positive and negative about health and social care issues in Northumberland.
- 3) NCC has announced a new model for integrated health and social care in Northumberland.

122/21 Neighbourhood Development Plan

i) The draft Terms of Reference for the working group was discussed. It was RESOLVED that the draft be amended to read that the minimum number of volunteers be set at 6; that Cllr Baggott would lead the group; and that where it states that 'the Parish Council may delegate authority to the Working Group and/or Clerk to approve payments up to a certain amount' that the amount should be £250.

ii) Drop-In plans/preparation – a flyer for the drop-in event on 23rd September (2pm – 8pm in the Rennington Village Hall) has been prepared by a volunteer and a logo for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) that can also be used for the Parish Council consisting of 10 coloured leaves (representing the number of parish councillors) on an oak tree. RESOLVED that the flyer, questionnaire and logo be approved and that the logo be used for Rennington Parish Council as well as for the NDP.

iii) Grant funding – this has not yet been applied for.

123/21 Annual Parish Meeting – RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting (postponed due to Covid-19) in October 2021 in order to obtain public input into the setting of the budget and priorities for 2022-23. RESOLVED that the meeting will be held over a two hour period at a different date and time to the usual RPC meeting.

**124/21 Planning Issues and Enforcement
Live Planning Applications**

- i) 21/01595/DISCON North Farm, Rennington
Discharge of condition 9 (landscaping) relating to 19/03479/VARYCO

ii) 20/03447/VARYCO North Farm, Rennington
Variation of condition 2 (approved plan) and amendment of condition 2
(Materials) relating to 19/03478/VARYCO

iii) 20/03446/VARYCO North Farm, Rennington
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and amendment of condition 3
(Materials) relating to 19/03479/VARYCO

NOTED that two VARYCOs (ii and iii) were approved by the North
Northumberland Local Area Committee (NNLAC). Cllr Dixon made written and
verbal representations to the meeting on behalf of parishioners, objecting to the
applications to vary the planning permission and allow such changes as the
colour of the stone, colour of the roof tiles, wall building methods etc. However
(except for some minor issues) the variations were agreed on the casting vote of
the Chair of the NNLAC.

iv) 21/00752/FUL 1 Rennington Village
Conversation/extension of outbuildings.
NOTED there is no change of status with this application.

v) 20/04399/REM Land north of Grange Park, Rennington Reserved matters
relating to 18/04410/OUT
NOTED there is no change of status with this application.

vi) 20/02451/REM Land north of Grange Park, Rennington Reserved matters
relating to 18/04410/OUT
NOTED there is no change of status with this application.

vii) 21/00990/FUL Broxfield
Erection of 3 farm buildings
NOTED there is no change of status with this application.

Other planning issues

viii) Report back from meeting between Cllrs Dixon and Neilsen and Colin
Barnes of Northumberland Estates re North Farm Development
NOTED that Colin Barnes listened to the criticisms made by the Parish Council
on behalf of residents relating to the development but that Northumberland
Estates stated that they had followed the planning procedure. Colin Barnes also
stated NE's willingness to engage with RPC in connection with neighbourhood
planning and proposed that regular dialogue was established on matters of
common interest going forward.

ix) Pre-planning application for Phase 2 of the North Farm Development
NOTED that the pre-planning application has been rejected by the Planning
Authority on the basis it was too large for the village, was in the wrong place and
interrupts the rural vista of open farmland. NOTED that in the new draft NCC
Local Plan that the plan for smaller villages such as Rock and Rennington will
allow for limited development outside designated development areas only in
exceptional circumstances. NOTED that Phase 2 of the North Farm
Development is outside the designated development area identified in the draft

local plan. Northumberland Estates has invited the Parish Councillors to meet to discuss Phase 2. NOTED that the forum for such discussion is in the context of the Rennington Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). RESOLVED that Councillors will meet with Northumberland Estates as requested and report back via the NDP working group and the Parish Council meeting.

x) Report back from meeting between Cllr Dixon and Rob Murfin, Director of Planning, NCC re Planning Issues.

NOTED that Rob Murfin will deliver a training/briefing session to Councillors to better equip them to be involved in the planning procedure. These training sessions are taking place around the County with different councils.

xi) Discussion about future RPC decision making in connection with planning/enforcement matters and providing effective representation for the views of the community

RESOLVED that this will be held back for a future meeting of the Parish Council once the training referred in x) has been delivered.

xii) Update on Stamford Lea (Mason's Arms) - removal of spoil

NOTED that NCC will begin enforcement action against the developer if the spoil has not been removed by the end of August. NOTED that a Stamford Lea resident has reported potential change of ownership of the site.

xiii) Any planning applications submitted since the drafting of the agenda
None.

125/21 Modifications to the Northumberland Local Plan

NOTED that the draft local plan proposes that Rennington and Rock villages are considered as smaller villages and that they would feed into larger service areas i.e. larger villages and towns. Development outside smaller villages designated areas would be allowed in exceptional circumstances only.

126/21 Defibrillator

The defibrillator is currently positioned on the outside wall of The Horseshoes pub house. This could become an issue in future if the pub changes hands. It is just over halfway through its life of approximately 10 years. A resident fund-raised for it and the Parish Council has been funding the maintenance of it since installation although no individual or body technically owns it. Guardians in the community carry out regular necessary checks and make appropriate regular reports to NEAS. The Guardians are happy to continue with their duties. Cllr Bosanquet NOTED that the residents of Rock do not consider that a defibrillator is needed in Rock.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council formally take ownership of the defibrillator and request that the Guardians produce a short report for the Parish Council setting out ongoing arrangements to manage/maintain the defibrillator in good order and specify when it will need to be replaced.

RESOLVED to pay for a new cabinet at a cost of approximately £100 due to

damp ingress.

127/21 Prioritisation of review of current policies and procedures

The Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet in advance of the meeting of policies and procedures that need review and/or to be drafted as they are absent and necessary.

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Chair will prioritise and bring them to council meetings for approval. RESOLVED that the Clerk will be paid in addition to her normal hours to draft, using model standing orders, financial regulations and policies and procedures where possible.

128/21 RPC Filing Cabinet in Rennington Village Hall Office

The four drawer cabinet is full of old papers and needs to be sorted in line with the Council's document retention policy and statutory obligations.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Dixon and Baggott and the Clerk will empty and arrange for documents to be securely destroyed, archived with Northumberland Archives, recycled or kept in the filing cabinet.

129/21 Communications/Correspondence Received

i) Email from Cllr Jim McQueen (circulated in advance of the meeting)

NOTED that Cllr McQueen has resigned for personal reasons. RESOLVED that a letter of thanks be sent to him in consideration of his work for the Parish Council.

ii) Tree pruning on the Village Green (circulated in advance of the meeting)

This item was taken together with item 129/21 iii & vii. RESOLVED that the Clerk write to NCC to request they provide us with details of their responsibilities and schedules for carrying out the following works: pruning trees, clearing drains, cutting grass verges and emptying bins in the Parish.

iii) Correspondence re emptying/placement of Dog waste bin on the Lonnen (circulated in advance of the meeting). Decision at item 129/21 ii.

iv) Request from Embleton Parish Council to change the Parish Boundary in two places (circulated in advance of the meeting). Discussion about the proposals noted that one proposed change would reduce the number of electors in Rennington Parish Council which would impact the Parish Council's precept and budget. RESOLVED not to agree to the proposed changes of boundary.

v) AGAR follow up – notification of exempt status from PKF Littlejohn received (circulated in advance of the meeting). NOTED.

vi) Enquiry from Great North Air Ambulance (GNAA) as to Rennington Parish Council's Grant making policy and procedure (circulated in advance of the meeting). The Parish Council does not have a written grants policy but has resolved in the past not to give grants to charities. RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to GNAA to confirm this policy.

vii) Enquiry from resident re Rennington drains silting up. Decision at item 129/21 ii.

viii) Enquiry re parking around Village Green during events at Rennington Village Hall (RVH) causing obstruction to residents. Discussion about the issue and competing priorities of residents and visitors to the Hall. The lease of the RVH allows access by the public to the hall along the road but there is no specific reference to parking in the lease. RESOLVED for the Clerk to write to the Chair of the RVH to request that they continue to try to ensure that users of the hall park considerately and not block access to residents.

130/21 Financial Matters

i) The Financial Report for 31st July was RECEIVED. The financial summary as at 31st July was: Treasurer's Current Account -£7,382.50; Business Instant Reserve Account - £4,836.88.

ii) RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Clerks Expenses - receipted (Stamps & Stationery)	£17.06
Clerk's membership of SLCC (Invoice)	£72.00
Stephen Carey Fund - 1 x set of IPAD Electrode Pads for defibrillator	£40.00
Clerk's Mileage by bike to Rennington 9 miles x .20	£1.80
Clerk's Mileage by car to RPC Meeting 9 miles x .45p	£4.05
Cllr Dixon's Mileage to NCC Planning Meeting 49 x .45p	£22.05
Clerk's Mileage by car to RPC Meeting 9 miles x .45p	£4.05

131/21 County Councillor – Monthly Report
This item was taken after 121/21.

132/21 Co-option of Parish Councillors

i) Advertising vacancies for new Parish Councillors
NOTED that the 'Casual Vacancy' caused by the resignation of Cllr McQueen has been advertised in line with statutory requirements. A general advert to invite co-optees to apply to join the Parish Council will be advertised after 24th August 2021. NOTED that the Parish Council does not have a policy & procedure for co-options and advertisements. The Clerk has drafted a policy and procedure that will be brought to the next meeting for adoption.

ii) Consideration of Cooption of Phil Green
Phil Green's statement and CV were considered and Councillors asked questions of the candidate. RESOLVED that Phil Green be co-opted to the Parish Council.

133/21 Other Urgent Business – none.

114/21 Date of Next Meeting – RESOLVED to postpone the September meeting of the Parish Council. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 7th October 2021 at 7.00pm at Rennington Village Hall.