

RENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Rennington Parish Council meeting held at 6.30pm on Thursday 3rd February, 2022 at St James' URC, Pottergate, Alnwick, NE66 1JW.

Present: Cllrs Robert Dixon (Chair), Stephen Baggott, Alan Tremlett, Phil Green, Lalage Bosanquet, Fred Bosanquet

In attendance: Clerk Deb Still and Cllr Wendy Pattison.

27/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Karl Nielsen.

28/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

29/22 Public Participation Time

There were no public questions.

30/22 Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on Thursday January 13th 2021 and the EGM of Thursday January 20th 2022

RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr F Bosanquet) that both sets of Minutes be accepted and signed as correct and true records.

31/22 Matters Arising from the previous meeting

i) Update on Schedule of grass cutting & removal of invasive species in Rennington Burn (email circulated in advance).

NCC cannot give precise schedules of grass cutting. RESOLVED that Councillors Green and Dixon will keep an eye on the Himalayan Balsam in the burn on NCC and NE land and once in flower will photograph and send to the Clerk to alert the landowners and request that the Balsam be cut before it seeds.

ii) Update on culvert silting and roadside drains.

NCC has not replied to the letter of 10th December and on chasing up has found that the relevant employee is on sick leave. RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to another employee in the department and escalate if necessary.

iii) Update on cutting back grass and foliage in the area around the Northumbria Water Treatment Plant (email circulated in advance).

NOTED that Northumbria Water has replied stating they will monitor the vegetation and arrange for the removal of any shrubbery or vegetation in future.

iv) Update on defibrillator at Rock Cricket Club.

NOTED that a letter has been prepared and will be sent out tomorrow by the Clerk.

vi) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lunch

A parishioner's request to apply for a NCC grant for a commemorative scheme or similar for the Parish was discussed. NOTED that Rennington Village Hall and Rock Estate are planning lunches/teas on the day and NCC grants are limited. RESOLVED that Cllr F Bosanquet will discuss NCC grants and support options with the Chair of the Village Hall Committee and the Clerk will write to the resident to inform them that there is no current support for an application to the grant fund for a commemorative scheme at present.

32/22 Adoption/Review of RPC Policies and Procedures

RESOLVED to adopt the Privacy Notice (proposed by Cllr L Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr Green). NOTED that the Data Protection Policy will be brought back to the next meeting for consideration.

33/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan

NOTED that the Council has received a copy of a response from the Minister of Housing to Anne-Marie Trevelyan, MP, to the effect that the department is in the final stages of the spending review process that will allocate funds to the Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme that ends in March 2022.

34/22 Planning Issues and Enforcement

i) Any planning applications submitted since the drafting of the agenda.

None have been submitted

Other planning issues

There were no issues.

35/22 Training – Councillors & Clerk update

Nothing to report.

36/22 Rennington Village Hall Report

Cllr Bosanquet reported that contractors due to carry out the works have been delayed and are due to start works on Thursday 10th February.

There has been some further damage over last weekend due to Storms Malik and Corrie.

It is anticipated that the work will be completed within 10 days and the hall will be open for normal activities as soon as possible after that.

37/22 Register of Assets

Discussion took place over some of the assets and ownership thereof. The Clerk will make some changes and bring the final version of the Register to

the next meeting. It was RESOLVED to approve the Risk Assessment (proposed by Cllr L Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr Baggott).

38/22 Parish Emergency Plan/Resilience Plan

Cllr Green has researched the cost and efficiency of back-up generators and been informed by an engineer from Northern PowerGrid that “standby generators are very good at standing by but not so good at generating.” Solar panels might be a better option and Community Action Northumberland has funding for feasibility studies to go ahead on local community buildings in a step towards greener energy generation.

There was discussion about the draft Plan, and the letter and survey to send out to all households in the parish. RESOLVED to agree the three documents and for the Clerk to upload the Privacy Notice to the website and for Cllrs Green and Baggott to print the survey and letters as hard copies and upload to Survey Monkey and put a link on the website. The hard copies to be delivered with the Community Newsletter within the next 10 days.

39/22 Purchase of Assets for Parish

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Cllr Green to finalise the list of items to purchase by way of grant funding and bring to the next meeting. The list to include 2 new noticeboards (preferably metal) and 2 benches for the village green and items for councillors to use in emergencies (high-viz tabards, lanyards etc).

40/22 Communications/Correspondence Received

i) NOTED that the Sycamore in the Churchyard that was damaged in Storm Arwen has been dealt with by two members of the public. RESOLVED that the Clerk write to NCC to update them.

41/22 Future Meeting Dates for RPC

RESOLVED that the new meeting dates be agreed (the second Thursday of each month) and that the start time be amended to 7pm. The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) to take place on Thursday 28th April 2022. RESOLVED that the Clerk invite a member of the Resilience/Emergency Team to attend the meeting to update the Community with the County Plans.

42/22 Financial Matters

i) **Financial Report** and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances as at 28.1.22
(monthly financial report circulated in advance).

Treasurer's Current Account Balance 28th January 2022	£5,453.91
Business Bank Instant Reserve Account	
Parish Council Reserves	£3,750.56
s.106 monies from NE for RV Hall	£1,961.52

ii) To approve current payments – it was RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr Baggott and seconded by Cllr F Bosanquet) that the following payments be approved:

Bulb for defibrillator to reimburse Elliot Smith (Guardian) **£3.85**

Contribution towards Newsletter printing Invoice MM 2301 **£212**

iii) Confirmation of Precept Request to NCC

NOTED that the Clerk has submitted the request.

iv) Appointment of Councillor to regularly check bank reconciliation as per

RPC Financial Regulations 2.2. It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Green.

v) Online Banking – Cllrs Baggott and Green have still heard nothing from Lloyd's Bank in relation to their application to become signatory on the RPC bank account. RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the bank to try to find out the reason for the delay.

43/22 County Councillor – the Monthly Report was circulated in advance. Cllr Pattison reported on the impact of Storms Arwen, Malik and Corrie to North Northumberland and confirmed that NCC are undertaking a review looking into the aftermath of Storm Arwen which left thousands of Northumberland residents without power for nearly two weeks. Cllr Pattison reported that Northern Powergrid has 3 food vans available in Northumberland that can be brought into areas without power and that it is also possible to directly contract with a food van where necessary and Northern Powergrid will pay for the food van.

44/22 Any Other Urgent Business
None

45/22 Staffing Matters – RESOLVED to exclude the public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. The written report by the Clerk was APPROVED.

46/22 Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th March at 7pm at Rennington Village Hall (provided the Hall has reopened to the public).