

## RENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk:** Deb Still, 26 Swansfield Park Road, Alnwick, NE66 1AT

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### PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Rennington Parish Council meeting held at 6.30pm on Thursday 13th January, 2022 at St James' URC, Pottergate, Alnwick, NE66 1JW.

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

**In attendance:** Clerk Deb Still.

**01/22 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Karl Nielsen, Fred Bosanquet.

**02/22 Declarations of Interest None**

**03/22 Public Participation Time** There were no members of the public present.

**04/22 Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on Thursday December 2nd 2021 and the EGM of Thursday December 9th 2021**

RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr L Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr Tremlett) that the Minutes be accepted and signed as correct and true records.

**05/22 Matters Arising from the previous meeting**

i) Report Back on Parish Council Documents from Northumberland Archives – NOTED that Northumberland Archives has confirmed that they have not so far found any Rennington Parish Council documents in the extensive Dickson, Archer Thorp archive collection which has been 'roughly box listed' but that they will contact the Council if they do find any documents in the future.

ii) Update on Schedule of grass cutting & removal of invasive species in Rennington Burn – NOTED that the Clerk is waiting for a reply.

iii) Update on culvert silting and roadside drains – NOTED that the Clerk wrote to NCC in December but has not received a substantive response. Some drains in Rennington have been cleared but the Southfield culvert has not been cleared. RESOLVED that the Clerk write to NCC.

iv) Update on cutting back grass and foliage in the area around the Northumbrian Water Treatment Plant – NOTED that the Council is waiting to hear back from Northumbrian Water.

v) Update on possible defibrillator at Rock Cricket Club (RCC)– NOTED that the RCC are planning to install a defibrillator later in 2022 subject to funding. Some funds have been raised as they continue to explore other grant/donation opportunities. They have asked (Cllr F Bosanquet) if the Council would be

interested in making a contribution. NOTED that the Council has now taken the Rennington village defibrillator into Council ownership and is supporting the Defibrillator Guardians Team by paying for maintenance of the asset; for associated training costs and drafting a governance document . RESOLVED to ask RCC to present the Council with a formal proposal detailing the support they would like to receive.

vi) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lunch. NOTED that an announcement from NCC is awaited in respect of grant funding to support Jubilee celebrations. Rock Village will be having their own street party/tea. RESOLVED that Rennington Council will consider support for initiatives in the Parish but does not plan to organise events. RESOLVED to consider further in February.

vii) Update on website options for RPC. NOTED that quotes would need to be obtained and grants applied for. RESOLVED to review in September 2022.

viii) Parish Resilience/Emergency plan – NOTED that a draft Resilience/Emergency Plan has been produced by Rennington Councillors in the wake of Storm Arwen. The aim of the plan is to advise and support the community in becoming as resilient and self-sufficient as possible within the limitations of individual and collective resources and paying particular attention to and prioritizing the needs of those deemed or deeming themselves to be vulnerable. Councillors discussed a range of issues thrown up by Storm Arwen including communication (with some residents not able to access or losing power/signal for Internet and mobile phone signals); access to hot food and drinks; to hot water; keeping warm; access to generators; supporting vulnerable residents and the role of Councillors. NOTED that Rennington Village Hall is registered with NCC as an Emergency Rest Centre but was closed due to storm damage. Councillors have been talking to volunteers in the parish and seeking views about resilience and being better able to respond quickly and efficiently were a future equivalent emergency to occur. RESOLVED that the Emergency Plan will be redrafted in the light of comments and research and brought to the next meeting. Further RESOLVED that a survey (using Survey Monkey in addition to paper forms) will be drafted for approval at the next business meeting prior to hand-delivering to all residents in the Parish and publishing on the website.

ix) Defibrillator – the three Guardians in the new Guardian Team are working well together. The night light for the Defibrillator has been replaced but may still be faulty. This does not affect the functioning of the Defibrillator but needs to work to show where it is at night. The Guardian Team will keep it under review and an electrician may be needed.

x) Register of Assets – NCC has confirmed that they own and are responsible for maintaining the finger posts and highway signs (some Parish Councils do choose to carry out additional maintenance subject to funds). RESOLVED that the Clerk write to NCC with a list of fingerposts/signs in the Parish that need maintenance work.

**6/22 Adoption/Review of RPC Policies and Procedures**

Draft Risk Register – NOTED that the document drafted identifies risks and mitigations for the Council. The final draft will be brought to the next ordinary business meeting

**07/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

- i) Update on grant funding – the Government has still not announced a decision on grant funding for NDPs post March 2022 when the current scheme ends. The Clerk has written to Anne-Marie Trevelyan, MP, but has not yet received a response.
- ii) RESOLVED that Cllr Baggott draft an update to the NDP process that can be submitted for inclusion in the Parish Newsletter and published on the PC website.

**08/22 Planning Issues and Enforcement**

**Live Planning Applications**

- i) No planning applications submitted since the drafting of the agenda.
- ii) One planning application has been submitted by **Rock Cricket Club** for the Installation of two lane practice net facility on small area of agricultural land and although the consultation period has formally ended no decision has yet been taken by NCC. RESOLVED to submit a letter of support on the NCC Planning Portal.

**Other planning issues**

- i) **17/04588/FUL** Update on installation of foul and surface water drainage at North Farm Rennington following recent flooding. NOTED that prior to Storm Arwen, NCC had investigated RPC's concerns and found the measures were to plan and satisfactory. During the heavy rains of Storm Arwen, flood water collected on the C73 and water was pouring through the new walls at the front of the development. The Developer sought agreement to carry out urgent changes to ensure a better flow of water past the site. The Council responded and raised their concerns with the Planning Officer who has reported the issue to the Enforcement team who will reinvestigate the matter and has halted any further works pending the outcome of the investigation.

- 09/22 Training –** NOTED the Chair has signed up to all the NCC planning training save for the session about conservation areas. Cllr Green will sign up for that session. The Clerk has registered for the Introduction to Local Council Administration qualification on line with the Society for Local Council Clerks.

**10/22 Rennington Village Hall Report**

The Village Hall remains closed and a temporary repair might be carried out to enable to the Hall to open pending full repairs.

**11/22 Register of Assets**

RESOLVED to carry this item forward to the next ordinary business meeting.

**12/22 Purchase of Assets for Parish**

NOTED that new benches may be needed on Rennington Village Green. RESOLVED that Cllr Green will obtain quotes for refurbishing the existing benches. NOTED that one bench in Rock has been destroyed in Storm Arwen and will need replacing; the two noticeboards for the parish are damaged and allowing water ingress and are beyond refurbishment; some items may be needed in connection with the emergency plan eg emergency kits to include mobile phones, torches, hi-viz clothing, identity lanyards, ropes, first aid kit etc.), and comfort packs of essential supplies, blankets, clothing, generators etc. RESOLVED to discuss at the next ordinary business meeting.

**13/22 Communications/Correspondence Received**

i) Email received from a member of the public regarding damage to the grass triangle at the junction of Church Road with the C73 in Rennington December 2021. NOTED that the grass has recovered. RESOLVED to review in two months' time and the Clerk to write to the resident.

ii) Verbal report from a member of the public regarding increased non-clearance of dog fouling on Rennington Village Green and other verges/footpaths. RESOLVED to request that an item be placed in the Council's Notes for inclusion in the Community Newsletter.

**14/22 Financial Matters**

i) **Financial Report** and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances as at 7.1.22 (monthly financial report circulated in advance).

Treasurer's Current Account Balance 30<sup>th</sup> September **£5764.07**

Business Bank Instant Reserve Account

Parish Council Reserves **£3,750.56**

s.106 monies from NE for RV Hall **£1,961.52**

ii) It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

ii) **To approve current payments:**

Clerk's mileage by car to 2 RPC meetings at Rock  
(2x 11miles x.45)

**£ 9.90**

**15/22 Online Banking**

Cllrs Green and Baggott have still had no news from Lloyd's bank on their applications to become signatories. The Clerk has received a debit card for herself and one for each of Cllr L Bosanquet and Tremlett. A debit card under RPC's Financial Regulations will only held by the Clerk. RESOLVED to destroy the two additional debit cards.

**16/22 County Councillor**

The monthly written report was NOTED.

**17/22 Budget Setting**

RESOLVED to set the budget as per the amended written report from the Clerk and following discussion at the last meeting (proposed by Cllr L Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr Baggott.

**18/22 Other Urgent Business**

NOTED that two local residents very helpfully cleared the footpath connecting Rennington village and Stamford Lea that was blocked by a tree following Storm Arwen. RESOLVED to confirm the Council's gratitude for this voluntary task.

**19/22 Staffing Matters**

RESOLVED to bring forward the issue subject of the written report to the next ordinary business meeting.

**20/22 Date of Next Meeting** – EGM - Thursday January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm at St James URC, Pottergate, Alnwick, NE66 1JW.