

**Draft Minutes of the meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday February 20th 2020**

1. **Councillors Present;** Chair K Burdett, Cllrs J Watson, L Bosanquet, K Nielsen and J McQueen. Three members of the public were also present. Clerk A Smith. County Councillor W Pattison was able to attend towards the end of the meeting, three members of the public.
2. **Apologies for Absence;** A Tremlett, C Barker.
3. **Northumbria Police Community Police Officer Katie Gerrard and Chris Stone**

CSO Katie Gerrard explained how Northumbria Police's had been restructured and their team consisting of two PC's and two CSOs covered Rothbury and Rural areas. She explained that reviewing data there was very little crime in the area but she urged residents to get in touch with any concerns and said that herself and CSO Stone were very keen to attend any community events such as the annual Scarecrow festival. She said that speeding did seem to be a concern at some other Parish Councils they had attended. KB said that although speeds had not shown as being too high in a recent survey, traffic was sometimes too fast coming into Rennington from Rock and around the bends on the B1342 around the village as well as the stretch of road from the level crossing into and through Stamford. CSO Gerrard said they trained to use hand held speed guns and they could monitor speeds at those points. The issue of parking on Church Road was raised and CSO Gerrard it was something they could act on if there was a clear obstruction of the pavement. She said they would speak to the Grange Care Home regarding considerate parking of staff and visitors. LB also raised the issue of Hare-coursing and CSO Gerrard said poaching was an area they were tasked with and operations would be run and any local information was welcome.
4. **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.
5. **Public Participation Time** There were three members of the public. One resident highlighted a concern that he had heard building work at North Farm had stopped because of an issue with contaminated soil. KB said the Parish Council had not heard this and that demolition work had stopped before building work commenced, but that the question could be put to NCC. The resident also highlighted the chicanes at Christon Bank and whether these had been considered in Rennington. KB responded that at the time of the speeding consultations this was not something that had been requested. Robert Dixon was in attendance to discuss Church Road parking and the income of the Parish newsletter and another resident the planning application at the Mason's Arms.
6. **Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Thursday December 5th 2019** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by LB and seconded by KN and signed by KB.
7. **Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

**Land by Mason's Arms, Stamford;** The Environment Agency had replied to the PC to say that when they had visited the land the suspect mound had grassed over. The Environment Agency said it was in the process of contacting the landowner to see if they can confirm if there is construction and demolition material within the paddock. The clerk has replied highlighting the difference in the land with photographs from prior to the first planning application showing it flat and to the present time where there are mounds and that the PC's main concern is the illegal dumping of soil waste.

**Church Road Parking;** JW said he was awaiting further discussions with KWPurvis regarding a detailed quote. JMc asked if the PC could also get an estimate of costs for concrete grasscrete to compare and

JW said he would arrange a costing. Mr Dixon reiterated his argument that the current grasscrete would work if it was properly maintained and the drainage sorted out. KB highlighted that NCC will not maintain the grasscrete.

Northumberland Estates/North Farm public meeting follow-up; There was nothing further to add as the PC was now awaiting Northumberland Estates putting in the planning application.

Rock Lamppost request to NCC; KN had spoken to residents who were happy to have some street lighting. Gavin Barlow, from Highways and Neighbourhood Services at NCC, had confirmed with the PC that NCC could use 4 Northern Powergrid Network Poles in the Village, to mount new lighting units. He said NCC would pay for one lighting unit at a cost of £750 but if the PC required further units it would need to fund some of the cost. It was agreed to have lighting on one post which the PC felt would be sufficient. The clerk will get back to Mr Barlow with the marked location plan.

Rock Dog signs request to NCC; Stephen Hall, Senior Animal Welfare and Environmental Enforcement Officer, had agreed to put up dog fouling signs in the village but said that NCC could not supply dog on lead signage for residents to put up themselves on the footpath at Rock because they are not enforceable but that residents could put up their own signs.

Precept request submitted; the clerk had submitted the official request.

Outcome of Street naming consultation, East of North Farm; NCC had rejected the suggestions put forward by the Parish Council but had changed the name to North Farm Mews rather than the developer's original suggestions.

8. **NALC Anti-Social and Petty Crime Survey** KB completed the survey with input from councillors and the clerk will submit. Councillors did not consider that crime had increased from previous years and they listed poaching and other wildlife crime, Fly-tipping and Scam telephone, internet or text messages as the three most common types of anti-social behaviour.
9. **A Neighbourhood Plan** KB said he was aware that there had been some discussion in the village about the need for a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council had invited an officer from NCC to discuss how to go about a Neighbourhood Plan last year but there was no significant interest because of the time commitment needed to produce one. He said Ms Brannigan had discussed how a plan can consist of just one or two policies to make it more manageable. It was agreed to put a notice in the Parish newsletter asking for volunteers interested in putting together a Neighbourhood Plan to come forward. JMc and a member of the public both said they would be interested in getting involved.
10. **Financial Matters**  
*Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix C) This had been circulated.*  
*There had been the direct debit for the Clerk's wages for £302.43 between meetings.*  
*Approval for payment of invoices; It was agreed to approve the payment of £9.00 for the clerk's travel expenses for Jan&Feb, the rent for Rennington Village Hall for Jan19-Jan20 for £220, and in addition £36 for the Electrician's costs for the Christmas lighting to Adam Clarke and £137.60 to J Dixon for printing costs for the Parish newsletter.*
11. **Town and County Planning Act 1990;**  
PA 19/04926/FUL Construction of 7 holiday lodges, Land East of Masons Arms, Stamford Cottages;  
The plans had been circulated between meetings and comments received by the clerk. A local resident opposing the plans explained his objections to the Parish Council which focused on the inappropriate design, noise to local residents, the highways issues with vision onto s-bends and a surface flooding issue. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to oppose the plan for 7 holiday lodges which in particular it considers is inappropriate due to its impact on the landscape and that the land was never previously used as a caravan site. The Parish Council believes that the poor appearance of the land is due to the way it was destroyed during previous building works on the site which the PC is pursuing with the Environment Agency (see item 7). The clerk will submit the Parish Council's full response to NCC.

PA 18/04410/OUT Outline permission for Residential development of 8 new houses, Land North of Grange Park, Granted.

PA 19/03043/VARYCO Retrospective variation of condition 12 (materials) pursuant to planning permission 16/04246/FUL Land West of Masons Arms, Stamford Cottages. Appeal to the Secretary of State. The chair believed this is due to be heard towards the end of February.

Proposed Communications Installation for ARQIVA's Smart Meter Network at CSP NE321, verge at Church Road/B1340 Junction, Rennington, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 3RT; The chair explained the first application had been turned down by NCC. The clerk had sent a letter to ARQIVA and a copy to NCC again detailing the PC's objections to the proposed site and suggesting alternative sites but will now await the planning application.

12. **County Councillor Updates (appendix D) this had been circulated.** The chair highlighted WP's request that councillors complete the library survey. He also mentioned NCC's proposal that it takes control for broadband in isolated rural areas since it has the equipment and staff to install.
13. **Highways issues** The clerk reported the gully tanker is back on the road and catching up with a backlog. KB highlighted the stretch of road from Rennington Village to Rock with 4 drains on the outgoing side blocked. The clerk will contact Graham Bucknall at Highways. JW suggested the PC asks Highways to ask the adjacent landowner to stop discharging water. In addition there is surface water on the B1340 entering the village on the bend towards Stamford Cottages which the clerk will also report.
14. **Correspondence received;** The clerk had received a link to the Local Transport Plan 2020-21 which will go before the Local Area Council meeting this month.
15. **Any Other Business;** Mr Dixon raised the future income of the Parish newsletter. He is in discussions with local businesses about advertising and them providing articles. He asked whether if there is an income the Parish Council could handle this through its bank accounts. It was agreed the Parish Council will check the legalities of this with NALC. KB said that with the reduced printing costs of the newsletter the PC was happy to continue supporting the publication reducing its contribution as other incomes were generated.  
WP said she had again highlighted with NCC the number of potholes on all arounds that need fixing. She said that MP Anne-Marie Trevalyan would be attending a future Nine Parishes meeting in May, date to be confirmed.
16. **Date of Next Meeting;** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020.