

Rennington Parish Council

Clerk Lesley Long, 5 Meadow Riggs, Alnwick NE66 1AP

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MINUTES

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday January 7th, 2021

Present: Chair Cllr Kevin Burdett (KB), Cllrs Lalage Bosanquet (LB), Karl Neilson (KN), Alan Tremlett (AT), Jim McQueen (JM)

In attendance: Clerk Lesley Long & Robert Dixon (RD), Editor of RenRock Newsletter and Laurence Dent of Rennington Village Hall Committee.

1/21 Apologies – County Cllr W Pattinson and Cllr J Watson.

2/21 Declarations of Interest - None

3/21 Public Participation – There were no public questions.

4/21 Minutes of the Meeting on December 3rd, 2020. RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and accepted as a true record, subject to the correction of the Parish Council name in the document header. Proposer (JM) Seconder (AT) AGREED by ALL.

5/21 Matters Arising

- i. **Masons Arms Safety Signage.** The Clerk reported NCC Highways have acknowledged the request to replace the faded S-bend sign. KB reminded councillors to advise the Clerk if they spot any other highway issues that need attention.
- ii. **Openreach Broadband Quote for Rock South- Charlton Mires CFP** - the Clerk reported the FTTP quote received from Openreach was very costly; amounting to £63,353 for 10 premises. It is unlikely to be covered in full by the gigabit voucher scheme, even with match funding from the iNorthumberland Borderlands fund. AGREED that the Clerk will write to all 10 properties to find out if there is an appetite for superfast broadband. **ACTION – CLERK**
- iii. **Move to online banking.** The Clerk will send information to KB, LB and JW about the steps they need to take as full power signatories to register for online banking. KB will remind JW to let the Clerk have his mobile contact number. **ACTION – CLERK/KB/LB & JW**

6/21 Memorial Tree for ‘Pete’

The Chair read out an email from a resident proposing a memorial tree be planted on the village green for ‘Pete’, a well-known resident for over 70 years, who had recently passed away. KB reminded councillors that as the village green belongs to Northumberland Estates, the parish council cannot grant permission, although it can forward the request to Northumberland Estates with a recommendation to consider. It was noted that if too many trees are planted on the village green, it will create problems for the maintenance and mowing of the area. KN suggested that the communal orchard, included as part of the plans for a new housing development in the village, would be a suitable location for the planting of memorial trees in future.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk would reply to the resident and confirm that their request had been forwarded to Northumberland Estates with a request for permission.

ACTION – CLERK

7/21 Neighbourhood Plan

JM reported that to date 7 Rennington residents had joined the initial steering group. The Clerk has requested the parish data gathered by Northumberland Estates for their recent Housing Needs Survey and copies of the 2007 Parish Plan have been circulated to group members. JM

Signature of Chair

Date.....

1

will speak with JW to find out if any data from the previous survey conducted in 2007 is still available. JM has had an initial conversation with Shaun Whyte, Chair of Alnmouth Parish Council, who has offered to talk with the group via ZOOM about his experience of the Neighbourhood Planning process and the help available from NCC Planning team. A Zoom meeting with Shaun Whyte is planned for Thursday 14th January at 3.00pm

KB reiterated that a Neighbourhood Plan must address the needs of the whole parish, have very clear aims and feed into the NCC Local Plan which has yet to be adopted. It was agreed that it was vital to inform and invite involvement from all residents across the parish and for representatives from Stamford and Rock be encouraged to join the group before any briefing meeting with Sarah Brannigan from NCC took place. JM and RD will discuss how best to communicate with all residents via the newsletter, email, mailshots and posters over the course of the next 6 weeks.

The Clerk offered to approach Eglington PC, who are currently drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan, to see if EPC councillors would be agreeable to sharing their experience of the process.

ACTION – JM/RD/CLERK

8/21 2021 Elections

The Clerk had circulated a briefing note with key dates for the 2021 elections. At the present time elections are still going ahead – although the situation will be kept under review in line with Covid emergency legislation. The Clerk will circulate Nomination forms as soon as she receives them and ensure the relevant legal notices are posted on noticeboards, in the RennRock newsletter and on the parish website. Councillors are encouraged to invite anyone interested to apply. The identity of councillors in uncontested seats will be published on the NCC website on April 9th,2021

9/21 Town & Country Planning Act

i. 17/04588/FUL North Farm Rennington. Responses from NCC and RPC

Correspondence from the Parish Council submitted by KB and responses from James Bellis, Planning Case Officer had been circulated to councillors on 19th December 2020. KB reported that there had been no further update from James Bellis and that the builder proceeded with work on the site at his own risk, as the materials have not been approved by NCC Planning. It was AGREED that RPC will continue to monitor work on the site and flag breaches of planning conditions, with NCC, as necessary.

ii. 20/04110/FUL The Barn, 3 Church Road, Rennington

Proposal: Two storey rear extension, single storey extension, garden room, car port and associated works

Outcome: Whilst having no objection to the alterations proposed for the dwelling, the parish council request the following Conditions be attached to any grant of approval.

Condition 1: to ensure that the walkway shown from the New Development through to Church Road be secured (reference 18/04410/OUT & 20/02451/REM); the planning applications that specify the inclusion of a public footpath connecting the new development on Land North of Grange Park to the rest of the village. Without it there would be no safe way to walk into the village.

Condition 2: That work on site be deferred until the development receives full approval.

Condition 3: That the vehicle access for all construction vehicles/deliveries etc. in the build-phase for extending The Barn, must be from the 'development site road'.

ACTION – CLERK

10/21 Financial Matters

- i. The Financial Report was received
- ii. RESOLVED that following payments be APPROVED for payment. Proposed (JM) Seconded (LB)
 - a. Clerk's expenses - £34.18

- b. Rennington Village Hall for RPC hire of the hall in 2020 - £60

11/21 County Councillor's Report – NOTED that the report for January was circulated prior to the meeting.

12/21 Correspondence

- i. An email from Cygnus Support requesting that the RPC publicise its Covid Mental Health & Wellbeing project, which includes a mental health helpline, 1 to 1 counselling and an online therapy platform Silvercloud. The services can be accessed anyone working or living in Northumberland. It was AGREED that the Clerk would send flyers to KB for the parish noticeboard, to the Rennington Village Hall for their noticeboard and website, to RD for the RennRock Newsletter and would upload information to the parish website. **ACTION CLERK**
- ii. Letter from Bailiffgate asking the RPC to consider a grant of funds. In line with Parish Council policy the parish council declined the request. **ACTION CLERK**
- iii. An email from the Secretary to the Parochial Church Council, advising that the Vicar and the Church Wardens have taken the decision to close All Saints Church in Rennington and St Philip & St James Church in Rock to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission to keep each other safe and reduce contact with others as much as possible. If anyone needs access, or anything else to do with the church, they may contact the Church Wardens in the first instance on 01665 577174 for Rennington and 01665 579301 for Rock. If the Church Wardens are unable to deal with the matter, they will pass this on to the Vicar. The Secretary asks that people do not contact the Vicar unnecessarily as she is rather busy at this time.

13/21 Any Urgent Business

AT reported that a resident had enquired about removing a bough on a large sycamore tree that appeared to have die-back. KB confirmed that NCC had inspected the tree and reported that it is good health and that no action is required.

14/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 18th February at 7.00pm on ZOOM

It was agreed that all future ZOOM meeting would start at 7.00pm.

15/21 Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2021

The following dates were confirmed for parish council meetings in 2021.

- Thursday March 25th
- Thursday April 22nd
- Thursday May 20th
- Thursday June 24th
- Thursday July 29th
- Thursday Sept 9th
- Thursday October 21st
- Thursday November 18th
- Thursday December 16th