

# 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 March 25th, 2021

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

**In attendance:** Clerk Lesley Long and 5 members of the public interested in the Neighbourhood Plan, and general items on the agenda.

**39/21 Apologies** – County Cllr W Pattinson, Cllr J McQueen.

**40/21 Declarations of Interest** - None

**41/21 Public Participation** – There were no public questions.

**42/21 Minutes of the Meeting on February 18th, 2021** It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and accepted as a true record. Proposer (LB) Seconder (KB) AGREED by ALL.

### 43/21 Matters Arising

- i. **Masons Arms Safety Signage.** KB confirmed the sign has been replaced.
- ii. **Openreach Broadband Quote for Denwick Lane End CFP** – there had not been enough take up from residents to make the project financially viable. Adrian Hinchcliffe, from Longhoughton is writing to those residents who were invited to take up the broadband offer, to explain the scheme will not go ahead. No further action at this point.
- iii. **Move to online banking.** KB and LB have received their card readers and security login details. AT stated he had not received an email from Lloyds Bank so that he could send in the necessary ID paperwork. KB will contact Lloyds Bank and ask for it to be resent. **ACTION – KB**
- iv. **Memorial Tree for 'Pete'.** The resident had thanked the RPC and Northumberland Estates for their decision and will contact the parish council in September to discuss the exact location for planting the tree.
- v. **NCC Request for Gully Emptying** – NCC had sent a gully cleaning vehicle to the village, before they could be formally asked to do so.
- vi. **NALC Training Programme** – LB had attended the NALC Preparing for Audit session, and the session fee will be refunded. The Clerk has not received details yet from other parish councillors of any previous training they have attended or briefings they have booked for 2021. The Clerk will send KB the list in the post. **ACTION- Clerk /ALL**
- vii. **Overgrown Hedge at Rock Lodge** – NCC Highways Northern Operations team have added the hedge to their 'Mayrise' highways safety inspection list.
- viii. **Community Charitable Trust Research** – LB had spoken with Tony Kirsop, of the NCC Community Development team, and established that the trust form was not suitable for the project being considered.

**44/21 Vacancy for Parish Clerk.** To protect the sharing of personal information the public domain, it was RESOLVED that the item be discussed in confidential session. Proposed by KB, Seconded LB. The Chair explained the current Clerk had submitted her resignation owing to family caring responsibilities but had offered to remain in post until May 31<sup>st</sup>. The parish council discussed an application for the vacancy. All AGREED that the Chair should offer the position to the applicant. Subject to her accepting the post, the new applicant would start on April 8th to ensure have a planned handover with the outgoing clerk. **ACTION – KB / Clerk**

Signature of Chair .....

Date.....

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**45/21 Proposal for Allotments at Rock** – LB reported that the Rock Estates proposed to create 4 – 5 allotment plots. All had been reserved within 48 hours of being advertised; clear evidence of the local demand and worth noting for the Neighbourhood Plan. LB will clarify if planning permission is required. **ACTION - LB**

**46/21 Embleton Mill Parish Boundary** – The Parish council had received an enquiry from an Embleton parish councillor and local landowner, asking if RPC would consider revising the line of the parish boundary. The Chair had done some research and noted that historically parish boundaries followed field boundaries or water courses. After discussion, it was RESOLVED that there was no particular benefit for the parish council to agree to a change and that the proposed boundary change would not be progressed. Proposed AT, Seconded KB, AGREED by All. The Clerk will notify the Embleton Councillor with the Parish council’s decision. **ACTION – Clerk**

**47/21 Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chair reported that he had been in contact with JM after the last meeting after which it had been proposed that the parish council should take forward the drafting of the proposed information flyer. Since then, the Chair had received constructive suggestions from other parishioners.

To ensure all residents can be fully involved, the Chair mooted that, should the government roadmap out of lockdown remain on track, it would be possible for a public ‘drop-in meeting’ to take place in the Village Hall after 17<sup>th</sup> May. The NCC Neighbourhood Planning team would be invited to give a presentation about the Neighbourhood Planning process and, together with parish councillors, would be on hand to answer questions.

Previous experience had shown that flexible drop-in meetings were more successful in engaging residents than single session sit down meetings. To ensure maximum turnout, it would be best to advertise the event and send out the information flyer 2 weeks in advance of the planned date. Following the drop-in session, the next step would be to set up a formal steering group and apply for grant funding to move the Neighbourhood Planning process forward.

After discussion, it was RESOLVED that a drop-in session with NCC Planning involvement, would be organised as soon as the date for opening the village hall was confirmed. The Clerk will write to David English and Sarah Branningan to ask for the earliest date when they could attend. It was considered that 4-hour drop-in session should be sufficient. Proposed KB, Seconded LB. AGREED by All.

The Chair also drew councillors’ attention to the information collected in the Housing Needs Survey, recently undertaken by Northumberland Estates. It was agreed that the content would be valuable when drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan.

**48/21 Election 2021 Update.** The Clerk will send the appointment booking link for the NCC Elections team to check candidate nomination forms, to AT, JM and JW. Official Notices publishing the election will be posted on the website and village noticeboards from March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. **ACTION – Clerk/JM/JW/AT**

**49/21 NALC Covid 19 Update.** NOTED that NALC are pursuing legal action for the continuance of remote local council meetings after 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Clerk will keep councillors posted on progress. **ACTION – Clerk**

**50/21 NALC Response to a Legal Dispute Enquiry**

NALC had been approached for advice on whether the RPC could assist a resident in the enforcing of the restrictive covenant on private property where a neighbour appears to be in breach of the covenant. The NALC response was that it was unwise to a parish council to get involved in what was a private matter and all councillors concurred. The Chair will speak directly with the resident who raised the issue.

**ACTION - KB**

**51/21 Village Hall Re-Opening**

The Village Hall committee had circulated a helpful summary to the Parish council with guidance and a proposed timetable for re-opening village halls after May 17<sup>th</sup>. Everything depends on whether the government decides to stick to the proposed dates outlined in the roadmap out of lockdown.

**52/21 Town & Country Planning Act**

- i. **18/04410/OUT Land North of Grange Park.** NOTED that the Clerk had circulated confirmation from Planning Enforcement that tree felling was NOT in breach of a planning condition. No trees were under TPOs.
- ii. **21/00679/MAST Lee Moor Business Park, Rennington.** The Clerk to record a NEUTRAL response but ask if the proposed mast is in addition to, or to replace the application for the Railsite mast proposed for land at Stamford Farm in 2020. **ACTION - Clerk**
- iii. **20/01743/FUL Land South of Rock Village, Rock.** Erection of new bungalow & car parking. NOTED - GRANTED
- iv. **North Farm VARYCO 20/03446 & 20/03447** applications. Cllr WP had circulated an email to inform the parish council that Planning Officer, Mr James Bellis and Senior Planner Mrs Vivienne Cartmell, had recently made a site visit and walked around Rennington village and looked at the type of stone which has been used to build other housing/property in the village. The planning officer, Mr Bellis, is also currently awaiting formal comments back from the NCC Building Conservation Team, before proceeding with the application further and he will be in touch.

**53/21 Village Maintenance**

- i. Clerk has ordered the new litter / dog bin to be sited at the end of the Lonnen. Delivery is expected within 2 weeks and NCC Neighbourhood Services Team will install it. **ACTION – Clerk**
- ii. The Clerk was asked to write to the James Bellis, Planning Case Officer, for the North Farm Development, to ask when the grass verges will be re-instated following the recent closure of Church Road and the subsequent damage caused by heavy plant and vehicles working on the site. It was noted that several residents who needed to get past the site entrance, have experienced discourteous and unhelpful behaviour on the part of some of the contractors.

**ACTION – Clerk**

**54/21 Financial Matters**

- i. The Finance report for March was received.
- ii. RESOLVED that following payments be APPROVED for payment. Proposed (KB) Seconded (AT)
  - a. Clerk’s expenses for printer consumables, postage & ZOOM software £ 23.49
  - b. Councillor reimbursable expenses for NALC training £ 5.00
  - c. Northumberland Estates Village Hall rent 29.9.2020- 23.3.2021 £425.00
  - d. Glasdon Ltd – Supply of Jubilee 110 litter / dog bin £463.68KB will organise the payments via online banking once the Clerk supplies BACS details

**55/21 County Councillor’s Report** – NOTED that the reports for March and April were circulated prior to the meeting.

**56/21 Correspondence**

- i. The Chair will respond to the email from a resident expressing concern that a neighbouring property is being used as a holiday let, in contravention of a restrictive covenant.
- ii. The Church Wardens had supplied details of the Easter Sunday Church Service planned for 10am, All Saints Church, Rennington on April 4<sup>th</sup> and these have been posted on the parish website. There is no service at Rock Church. The information will also be posted on the village noticeboards.
- iii. The Clerk reported that she had received details of the 2021-21 AGAR return from the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn.

**57/21 Any Urgent Business - None**

**58/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 22nd April at 7.00pm on ZOOM**

**Revised scheduled parish council meetings for 2021**

- Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Thursday Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 2021
- Thursday Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 2021
- Thursday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021

