

Rennington & Rock Parish Council

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

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MINUTES

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of Eglingham Parish Council held on Thursday October 15th, 2020

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, Editor of RenRock Newsletter

1. **Apologies** – County Cllr W Pattinson and Cllr J Watson who was unable to attend the Zoom meeting. Cllr J McQueen apologised for joining the meeting late; the delay being due to broadband technical issues.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None
3. **Public Participation** – The Clerk had received a written question from a parishioner which the Chair elected to address under Item 5.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting on August 27th 2020.** RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and accepted as a true record. Proposer (LB) Seconder (AT) AGREED by ALL.

5. Matters Arising

- i. **Tidying the parish / strimming update.** The Chair reminded the meeting that earlier in the year, the intention had been to mobilise residents to participate in a general tidy up and litter pick around the villages. The Covid -19 measures had put those plans on hold for the foreseeable future.

The parish council spent some time considering their response to a resident's question about the different approaches to the street management and floral planting on verges along Church Road. KB informed the meeting that NCC were responsible for grass cutting along the verges and that if they had any objection to residents beautifying the verge with additional planting, they would have informed the parish council. The parish council considered that if residents chose to tidy and plant flowers along the area of verge outside their property, it was a matter of personal choice. As long as residents stay within the NCC requirements, it was not appropriate for the parish council to intervene.

- ii. **Railsite Telecoms Mast Proposed installation at Stamford Farm** – KB reported that the landowners have engaged their own agent who is conducting negotiations with the Railsite Telecoms land agent. The landowners had asked if the parish council could send copies of previous correspondence to their agent to provide a background to the application. It was AGREED that the Clerk would forward copies. **ACTION – CLERK**
- iii. **Openreach Broadband Quote for Rennington CFP.** The Clerk had received an update from Sylvia Pringle Business and Community Engagement Officer with iNorthumberland. Owing to the high cost of the initial quote, the area is to be surveyed by Openreach. Sylvia will send the revised quote to the Clerk as soon as it provided after the survey. **ACTION – CLERK**
- iv. **Repointing of the Church Boundary Wall** – KB reported that NCC Local Services Team had almost finished the task and had done a very good job.

Signature of Chair

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6. Residents Enquiry

The Parish Council discussed 3 enquiries raised by a resident:

- i. **The possibility of re-instatement of a footpath from the Village Green to West Farm and Lonnen West Farm.** It appeared that there is some anecdotal evidence that there may have been a footpath around 60 years ago. However, the need for a footpath had previously been raised by the Parish Council with NCC and the developer when the planning application for the new cottages was submitted. In response, both NCC Planning and the developer had rejected the need for one. It was the consensus of the parish council that there is insufficient pedestrian traffic to warrant a footpath. The Clerk will write in reply.
ACTION - CLERK
- ii. **Removal of Himalayan Balsam on the Lonnen** - At the August parish council meeting, it was agreed that the invasive Himalayan Balsam would be tackled before the seed heads developed, by cutting it back in preference to using weed killer. Although the weather had hampered progress, the main central area had been tackled. The intention is to repeat the process annually and inhibit the plant progressing further down the Lonnen.
- iii. **Overgrown Footpaths, Waymarking and a Possible Footpath Champion.** The observations had been made by a visitor to the parish who didn't identify which footpaths were affected. The parish council is in regular contact with the NCC Footpaths Officer, who is happy to respond to specific issues.

It was AGREED to put an item in the Newsletter asking parishioners to inform the Parish Council if they noticed any missing way markers so the Footpaths Officer can be alerted. It was also AGREED that the RPC 'Guide to the Public Paths Around Rennington and Rock' would be uploaded to the Parish website and displayed on noticeboards in both villages. A notice reminding dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads and to pick up and dispose of dog poo in the proper waste bins would also be posted. The Clerk will write to the resident in reply. **ACTION – CLERK & KB**

7. Town & Country Planning Act

- i. **REF TR010058 – Highways England** – To NOTE the receipt of the Notification of an Application for a Development Consent order (DOC) in respect of the A1 Morpeth to Ellingham Widening Scheme. The consensus was that the application had not changed significantly and did not warrant a response from the parish council.
- ii. **19/01250 - Land at Masons Arms – to NOTE the response from NCC Planning Enforcement Officer Liz O'Brien.** The company that owns the land has replied that owing to Covid-19, they are currently unable to test and remove the soil. They have agreed to keep the site tidy and secure until they can progress the matter. AGREED that the Clerk will continue to press for action every 6 – 8 weeks. **ACTION – CLERK**

8. Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 – Section 53

DMMO (No 8) Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) No 28 – NCC Order issued Sept 4th, 2020. It was AGREED there was no need for the Parish Council to comment on the Order.

9. Highways Act 1980, Section 119

Public Path Diversion Order (Public Footpath Nos 4 & 5) - It was AGREED there was no need for the Parish Council to comment on the Order.

10. Financial Matters

- i. The Financial Report was received
- ii. It was NOTED that the current Clerk's hourly rate had increased from £10.16ph to £10.44ph

Signature of Chair

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in line with the recent NJC Conditions of Service for Local Council Clerks. The pay increase will be backdated to July 23rd, 2020. Backpay amounting to £19.30 is due to the former Clerk. NCC will pay the amounts due in the October payroll.

It was AGREED that RPC would contribute to the Clerk’s monthly subscription for Zoom Premium, to be able to conduct meetings longer than the 45-minute limit available with the Free version. The Clerk will liaise with other Parish Councils for whom she works, to seek their agreement for an apportionment of the monthly subscription cost. **ACTION – CLERK**

- iii. It was RESOLVED that the following invoices and payment be APPROVED.
Proposer KN, Seconder AT. AGREED by ALL

Item	VAT	Total
Clerk's expenses; printer consumables, stationery, postage & RBL poppy wreath	£ 1.37	£ 30.92
Rent for Rennington Village Hall 25.03.2020- 28.09.2020		£ 425.00
Annual Data Protection Registration Fee with ICO		£ 40.00
NCC Parish Council Insurance Inv. 210405		£ 175.07
Reimburse councillor expenses for Covid-19 volunteer phone line		£ 46.95

11. County Councillor’s Report – It was NOTED that this had been circulated prior to the meeting.

12. Correspondence – None

13. Highways Issues – Signage at Masons Arms – As further accidents have occurred since the RPC submitted a request to NCC Highways for the hazard chevrons to be reinstated, the Clerk is to press for action as a priority. **ACTION – CLERK**

14. Any Other Business

- a. KN reported that he had arranged a meeting with Laurence Dent of Rennington Village Hall but regrettably it had to be cancelled. He will re-arrange it as soon as possible. **ACTION – KN**
- b. JM raised the issue of creating a Neighbourhood (Village) Plan. After discussion, it was agreed that the topic would be added to the agenda for the next meeting on December 3rd, at which the parish council would decide whether to formally agree to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. In the meantime, JM will consult with those residents who have expressed an interest in the past, to see if they would be willing to be involved. **ACTION - JM**
- c. The Chair reminded councillors that NALC have organised a series of free online training briefings for parish councillors which they might find useful. Upcoming topics include: Introduction to Planning, Being Chairman of a Small Local Council and Freedom of Information. The Clerk has re-sent the NALC email which contains the link to register for the sessions via Eventbrite.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 3rd December via Zoom at 7.30 pm