

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on 27th June 2019

1. **Councillors Present;** K Burdett Chair, J Watson Vice Chair, A Tremlett, L Bosanquet, C Barker, J McQueen. One member of the public was also present. Clerk A Smith.
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3. **Apologies for Absence;** Cllr Pattison.
4. **Declarations of Interest** LB item 12.
5. **Public Participation Time** Robert Dixon said he had an interest in the Parish Newsletter and Church Road Parking.
6. **Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Thursday 16th May 2019** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by LB and seconded by CB, signed by KB. The chair asked it be noted that NCC council officer Mitch Young had contacted the clerk as he was unhappy that the minutes had incorrectly stated that the clerk had written to him regarding the entrance at Wisplaw and that no action had been taken. It was another officer the clerk had written to and the minutes had since been amended and the clerk had apologised to Mr Young.

7. **Neighbourhood Plan Presentation-Sarah Brannigan NCC**

Sarah Brannigan, planning policy officer at Northumberland County Council, gave a presentation on how a Parish Council should approach creating a Neighbourhood Plan and the process for having it ratified. She highlighted that a Neighbourhood Plan should sit alongside the Northumberland Local Plan, but not duplicate it, and that it cannot go against strategic policies both at a local and national level. She added that there is £9000 funding available to complete a Neighbourhood Plan. Ms Brannigan responded to questions from councillors and put forward that a Neighbourhood Plan can be kept simple with only a few policies. She suggested that Parish Councils might look at a Plan to establish a settlement boundary that works, to allocate sites for housing and a viability map for affordable housing, and to protect local green spaces that are of value to the community. She suggested a starting point might be to look at other Plans produced by Parish Councils. The chair thanked Ms Brannigan for her attendance and proposed that councillors all have a think about whether a local plan should be pursued. It was resolved that the clerk will source local plans and circulate for consideration before any decision was made on whether RPC should undertake a Neighbourhood Plan.

8. **Matters Arising**

Land north of Grange Park, Rennington; The chair reported that he was still waiting for a further update. The clerk had received correspondence from NCC officer Tony Lowe to say that the application was set for delegation.

Parish Newsletter The chair said the feedback regarding the first newsletter had been very positive. Robert Dixon presented the Parish Council with an invoice of £332.50 for printing costs which will be marked for approval at the next meeting.

Wisplaw Farm Entrance The chair reported on a meeting with Mitch Young of NCC which was also attended by Cllr Watson. Mr Burdett reported that Mr Young did not accept the debris at the entrance was sufficient to cause any problems. However Mr Young said he would confirm who owned the land and write to the landowner to ask him to tidy up the area.

War Memorial A copy of the photograph had been passed to the PCC for display in the church.

First Responder LB reported that she had contacted the First Responder in Rock who explained that he and others were called out only by the ambulance service. There is also a second First Responder in

the area. The individual had said he would be happy to provide some life saving skills to those interested and the PC resolved to invite him to deliver this in unison with the Stephen Carey Fund.

9. **RPC response to proposals for development at North Farm (appendix B)** The chair asked that this item be moved to the end of the agenda.
8. **Land East of Masons's Arms, Stamford** The clerk had received correspondence from Liz O'Brien at NCC who is taking another look at the PC's complaint.
9. **Church Road Parking** The clerk had received one quote back and was waiting for others. The matter will be on the agenda in September.
10. **Christmas tree and community bulb** (it was agreed to discuss at the next meeting)

11. Financial Matters: The clerk confirmed all documents for the Audit and accounts had been published on the parish website. She had also received confirmation from the external auditors that the PC's Certificate of Exemption had been received.

Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix C) This had been circulated.

Approval for payment of invoices; A payment to Sally Roberts of £100 for the internal audit and the annual subscription of £25 to the Northumberland & Newcastle Society were agreed.

12. Town and County Planning Act 1990: 19/01070/FUL Rock Midstead Farm, Alnwick;

A) Change of use of part of farm yard and 2 buildings from agricultural use to mixed use agriculture/woodchip production, drying and storage facility (Retrospective); B) Change of use of land to mixed use agriculture/wood store (Retrospective); C) Erection of agricultural building and stackyard, formation of access tracks (Prospective); D) Use of stackyard and associated access tracks for mixed use agriculture/woodchip production (Prospective). The chair reported the application had been approved with conditions following a site meeting attended by members of the PC. The chair said limits had been imposed on traffic movements and noise levels. He explained that the route to the A1 is part of National Transport network for timber transportation.

13. County Councillor Updates; WP's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

14. Correspondence received; Neighbourhood Beat Manager The clerk had received correspondence from Stuart Brimble who introduced himself and said he would come along to a meeting. He was unable to attend this meeting and the clerk had provided him with the date of the next meeting.

Local plan; The clerk had received an update from Rob Murfin head of NCC planning on the Local Plan which is currently being considered. Mr Murfin said that he would be happy to come out and talk to parish councils on planning matters. It was agreed the clerk will invite Mr Murfin to the next meeting in September.

The chair drew councillors attention to item 3 in the NALC newsletter where there was a report of Mr Murfin's meeting with NALC officers where he explained his vision for planning at NCC. Mr Burdett also mentioned that Mr Murfin had suggested at the Nine Parishes meeting that councils should draw up a wish list of community benefits that can be linked to housing application-this will be put on September's agenda.

15. Any Other Business;

The chair highlighted an item in the C.A.N. newsletter; a regional strategy for rural area open meeting for councillors on July 11 in Newcastle, which he thought might be of interest. Cllr McQueen had asked that three items be included on the June agenda; the Parish website, land on the corner of Church Road and the B1340, village litter collection. The chair apologised that they had not been on the agenda but it was agreed that they would be on September's agenda.

Cllr Barker asked that the PC consider making some donations to local bodies since it was a while since it had done so and suggested Alnwick Playhouse. This will be an agenda item.

Cllr Tremlett raised the issue of a lack of grass cutting in Rennington. It was resolved that the clerk will write to NCC and ask how many grasscuts there had been so far this year and how many are left.

16. RPC response to proposals for development at North Farm (appendix B) The chair explained that following a previous meeting with Colin Barnes of Northumberland Estates Mr Barnes had come back to RPC with ideas for plans for the development and were seeking further input. The chair proposed that RPC should go back to Mr Barnes with a proposal for 20 affordable homes on the site. Cllrs AT and CB were concerned that 20 was too many and Cllr Tremlett felt this number would change the character of the village. Cllr Bosanquet argued that it would change the character of the village for the better bringing in young families and making it more sustainable. Cllr Burdett argued that the number of affordable houses had to be larger to make it viable to build them and he was confident there were many families and individuals who wanted to live in the village. Cllr Barker felt it needed to be opened up to consultation in the village. The chair said Northumberland Estates is looking to put an application in in the Autumn. AT suggested asking Northumberland Estates to put back any application until the PC had consulted residents. It was resolved to hold a sub committee meeting on Thursday July 4 to discuss the matter further and to come up with questions for a residents survey. Cllr Watson suggested the housing could be opened up so properties were not all affordable but a mix of tenure and smaller terraced housing so that people could afford to buy.

17. Date of Next Meeting; Thursday 5th September 2019.