

## **Minutes of the Annual meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

1. **Election of Chair-** Cllr K Burdett asked for nominations to elect the chair of the Parish Council. KB was nominated by JW and seconded by LB.
2. **Election of Vice Chair;** to elect the vice chair - the new chair asked for nominations. JW was nominated by AT and seconded by LB.
3. **Apologies for Absence;** C Barker.
4. **Declarations of Interest** JW declared an interest on Item 7 Boundary Wall.
5. **Public Participation Time** Three members of the public were present. Robert Dixon wished to speak on the Parish newsletter and Church Road parking and Paul and Judy Weston on the War Memorial and Church Road Parking.
6. **Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Thursday 17th May 2018** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by JW and seconded by LB, signed by KB.

### 7. **Matters Arising**

**Parish Newsletter** Robert had brought a draft copy of the first newsletter along to the meeting to show councillors who were all delighted with it. LB said it was a welcome change and there would be some residents in Rock willing to deliver it there. It is a community newsletter not a parish council newsletter and Robert Dixon is keen to garner information about what other village halls and local community groups are doing that might be of interest to local residents. The email to send any information to is renrocknews@gmail.com.

**Boundary Wall** JW had asked the builder whose fencing had been borrowed for a quote and he instead has given the fence to the parish council. JW suggested the PC gifted the fence to the village hall committee who would agree and this was resolved.

**Masons Arms** KB asked that this be discussed under item 9

**War Memorial** KB explained to councillors and members of the public that the War Memorial Trust advised in 2012, prior to restoration work being done, that cleaning can result in more rapid deterioration of stonework.

The PC have digital photographic record of the cleaned Memorial, showing clearly the names of the fallen, this can be passed to RPCC for display within the Church.

**Neighbourhood Plan** Chris Anderson Neighbourhood Planning Officer from NCC has agreed to do a presentation at Rennington PC's next meeting in June.

**Stamford speed limit** The clerk had written to the local farmer at Rennington Stamford to inform her that although NCC was not looking at reducing the speed limit on this stretch of road the PC was pursuing having signage asking drivers to slow down due to animal movements.

8. **Christmas tree and community bulb planting** As these items had been put forward for discussion by CB who was unable to attend it was resolved to wait until the next meeting to discuss.

9.

**Nine Parishes meeting** The chair and clerk had attended the meeting organised by Cllr Pattison and had found it very positive as NCC's new head of planning Rob Murfin gave a talk and seemed keen to work with Parish Councils. KB had raised the problem of building waste dumped at the Masons Arms site and Mr Murfin promised to take a look at this. He said that a site office could be part of the planning permission to ensure that land is reinstated on completion of building works and was surprised this had not been done. He said the next step would be to find the landowner to remove the rubbish as an illegal dump and the Environment Agency could then be involved

in enforcement of this. Mr Murfin had asked KB to leave the matter with him. JW asked that when it is chased up it could be asked whether there is legal consent for the sale/advertising board. KB raised a second issued with Mr Murfin on the resubmitted development to land North of Grang Park with no affordable housing. Mr Murfin had looked into this and KB had received a response from NCC to say that the application had been delegated because it was thought there was no objection from the PC but on looking into the matter the PC had clearly objected. KB said NCC had not followed its own policy and procedure and hopefully the matter will be relooked at and go back on the agenda. It was requested the clerk ask NCC to send out planning agendas. Mr Murfin also mentioned that where a 106 agreement was agreed with developers as part of the planning consent, this is where the developer agreed to make a financial contribution for the benefit of the community. Mr Murfin had suggested Parish Councils pull a wish list together of things that would be useful and need financing in their communities so it is there to refer to on these occasions. The matter will be an agenda item in June.

**10.First Responder** JM had discovered that there is a first responder in Rock and was reassured by this knowledge. It was proposed that an article on first responders might be included in the Parish newsletter. LB said she would contact him.

**11.Financial Matters;** Annual Return and end of year accounts for approval (appendix D)  
*Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix E )* The chair read out the questions on the form which needed to be affirmed. The chair read out the internal audit statement prepared by Sally Roberts who had authorised the accounts for approval and this was approved. The chair and clerk signed the Governance Statement. AT asked that in future the accounts be prepared putting all similar costs (i.e. staff expenses) together and this was resolved.  
*Approval for payment of invoices;* NALC subscription and web fee £172.75, Printer cartridge £17.  
*Approval of any additional invoices received since preparation of the agenda. The clerk added expenses for 12 stamps and travel costs for April and May meetings totalling £9. The clerk had received a cheque for £425 from Rennington Village Hall for reimbursement of rent.*

**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 clerk had submitted the PC's response in objection to this application in its current form, having viewed the plans between meetings. It was felt the noise from the plant and the level of traffic on the current roads were both a problem. *Applications granted approval since April PC Meeting;* 19/00365/VARYC0 Variation of condition 16 Rock Home Farm, Rock.

**13. County Councillor Updates;** WP's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pattison raised a concern that the grit and dog bin in Rennington were looking shabby and she suggested the PC consider replacing them. She also suggested it would be a positive step forward to get broadband in Rennington Village Hall as both Craster and Embleton find it useful. JM said this was being worked towards. Cllr J Watso queried the entrance to Wisplaw with Cllr Pattison. It is broken up with loose stones. The clerk had written to Graham Bucknall at NCC earlier in the year but no action had been taken. Cllr Pattison suggested asking Mitch Young to come out and meet councillors at the site.

**14. Correspondence received;** This had been circulated between meetings; NALC newsletters, Traffic alerts.

**15. Any Other Business;** Church Road Parking; AT had been tasked at the last meeting to get some quotes to resurface the area. Since then he had been able to get some plans for the work drawn up free of

charge. It was resolved that he will now seek three quotes for the work including Northumberland County Council. The clerk will seek quotes seek for the side shown in the plans and also for the additional cost if both sides were done. JW had asked the care home to encourage staff and visitors to use the grasscrete rather than other sections of the road for parking.

**16. Date of Next Meeting;** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019.