

Minutes of meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday 11th April 2019

Councillors Present; K Burdett Chair, J Watson Vice Chair, A Tremlett, C Barker and J McQueen. One member of the public was also present. K Burdett stated that the original meeting date of April 4th had been rescheduled for April 11th because some councillors were unable to attend.

1. Apologies; Cllr L Bosanquet and County Councillor Wendy Pattison sent their apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest JW declared an interest on item 6 for Rennington Village Hall.

3. Public Participation time In accordance with Section 3.5 of the Rennington Parish Council Standing Orders members of the public present may address the Council or Committee at this point on the agenda. The Council/Committee reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date. Robert Dixon had attended the meeting to speak about item 9 Parish Newsletter.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st February 2019 were approved. Proposed by JW and seconded by AT and signed by KB with an amendment on item 11 North Grange Park that Colin Barker had abstained and also regarding Rock Farm to replace the word “addition” with “replacement.”

5. Matters Arising

Boundary Wall Cllr J Watson reported costings from Jackson Fencing website totalling £223. J10 for new security fencing, though was unsure whether a delivery charge would be in addition. It was agreed in principle to replace the fencing on loan with fencing bought by the Parish Council. Cllr Watson will seek a further quote before the next meeting.

Northumberland Estates North Farm The Chair, Cllrs J Watson and A Tremlett will attend a meeting with Barry Spall, Development Project Manager at Northumberland Estates on April 12th. They will feedback to the next Parish Council meeting.

Church Road Parking- The clerk had received correspondence from Richard MacKenzie. He accepted that he had not circulated plans to grasscrete the area. However he said that at the site meeting in Rennington “the possibility of extending the grasscrete was discussed. The option of providing tarmac was not raised at the meeting.” He went on to say that the Parish Council could fund a tarmac surface but that NCC did not have further funding for the project. However Cllr Burdett said correspondence had been received from County Councillor W Pattison offering to fund tarmacking from her 2020/21 member’s allowance. She suggested giving the grasscrete this year to see if it could work. The Parish Council members would prefer to see the area block paved. Robert Dixon, as a member of the public, said he preferred the grasscrete but that it needed to be properly maintained. It was agreed that the clerk will write to Cllr Pattison thanking her and stating that the Parish Council will take her up on her kind offer to pay for the full cost of providing a hard surface instead of the grasscrete and that the PC will seek quotes for the work. The clerk will also write to Richard MacKenzie and ask that in the meantime the grasscrete is properly maintained with drainage and reseeded. Cllr J Watson to approach the manager at The Grange and ask that staff be directed to use car parking areas within the Grange frontage in the first instance, if those are occupied, then use parking areas in Church Road and if unable too, then park along the highway in areas not likely to cause an obstruction for others.

Northumberland Local Plan Response The clerk had submitted the PC’s response to the online planning portal.

Local Government Ethical Standards Stephen Rickitt of NALC had replied to a query from the PC regarding the Local Government Ethical Standards to state that formal complaints against any councillor must be sent to the County Council's Monitoring Officer for investigation and Parish Councils should not carry out their own investigations.

Northern Power- The clerk had written a letter of thanks to Northern Power regarding their quick response to a local resident.

Masons Arms The clerk had written to NCC's enforcement officer regarding the cleaning up of the paddock. The response from Liz O'Brien was that the case had been closed last year. However the PC is concerned that the paddock is still full of illegally dumped waste from the contractor and cannot be left as it is. It was agreed that KB would raise the matter with the new head of planning at NCC Rob Murfin at a meeting the following evening of the Nine Parishes.

Speed Limit Stamford Richard Mackenzie had replied to a request from the PC for a reduction in the speed limit at Stamford. He said this was not a possibility as speed monitoring had shown that average speeds were just over 33mph in a national speed limit. Cllr McQueen said that he disagreed with the logic of average speeds in monitoring because the problem is those driving at higher than average speeds. KB said an email should be sent to the complainant at Stamford to let her know the outcome.

War Memorial KB and JW had looked at the war memorial following a request from the PCC that it be cleaned. However they both agreed that any further cleaning would cause more damage to the memorial following advice from the War Graves Commission. It was agreed to write to the PCC and explain the decision and JW will provide a photograph of the names on the war memorial which could be displayed in the church.

NALC Vat training Following a request from the clerk for evening VAT training Stephen Rickitt of NALC confirmed that the training was in the daytime because of the hours involved. However he stated that the training was generally for larger councils and attached some VAT guidance.

6. Embleton Neighbourhood Plan This had been circulated prior to the meeting and received positive feedback. The clerk will respond to Embleton PC to say Rennington PC supported the plan. CB said he thought it was a comprehensive report. JM thought it was very well written. It was queried whether Rennington should consider producing a local plan. KB said the matter had been considered over the years but involved a large time commitment from community volunteers. It was agreed that the clerk will seek to invite Chris Anderson Planning Officer at NCC to give a talk on Neighbourhood plans at a future parish council meeting.

7. A1 consultation Around 30 people in the village had attended the consultation meeting. Individual comments had been submitted but the clerk will submit a comment from the Parish Council. This will state that the PC would like to see significant improvement to the B6347 to account for the increased traffic generally onto the A1 as better access and from the woodchipping plant at Rock Midsteads and storage facilities at Rock Moor house and increased housing under construction in the villages.

8. Parish newsletter; KB reported that he had had a very positive meeting with Rob and Jane Dixon who are planning to produce a Parish newsletter. It had been agreed at their meeting that this should be a community newsletter and would include information from many sources including the Parish Council, the village hall, and the church. The Dixons have the desk top facilities to produce a newsletter at a low cost and hope eventually for it to become self-financing with small adverts. The main start up costs will be paper and ink. Initially it will be produced four times a year. KB proposed that the PC will provide initial funding of £250 for the first two newsletters and further funding will be reviewed after this. Mr Dixon said that he hopes it will evolve and become self funding and something people want to see and read. Councillors agreed upon a layout and it was explained that the decision of what to call the newsletter would be rolled out as a competition. KB thanked Rob and Jane for their efforts and proposed the funding which was agreed by all.

9. Financial Matters;

Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix circulated).

Approval for payment of invoices; Proposed AT and seconded JW. Northumberland Estates rent (Sept18/March19) £425, Adam Clarke Electricians invoice £36, PerITus Solutions Kaspersky licence renewal £29.99 (it was agreed the clerk will chase up Bill King regarding backing up the PC's computer).

JW asked that the clerk invoice the village hall for the rent payable to Northumberland Estates.

Preparation for audit; The clerk will prepare the accounts and submit to Sally Roberts for internal audit prior to the next meeting. AT asked that in the accounts it is recognised that £2500 has potentially been reserved for works to Church Road parking.

The clerk reported that the first half of the annual precept had been deposited.

The clerk had received the new NALC pay rates for clerks and an increase for the hourly rate from £10.27 to £10.54 was proposed by KB and agreed.

10. Town and County Planning Act 1990;

16 Rock Home Farm application 19/00365/VARYCO- no objections.

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 just received these plans and it was agreed to circulate them and comments shared via email to the clerk and all councillors before a response is submitted.

11. County Councillor Updates; WP's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. KB said he would be attending the Nine Parishes meeting organised by WP the following night when Rob Murfin, the new head of planning would be in attendance. There was a discussion regarding litter picking and litter on highways and it was felt this kind of information would be well highlighted in the Parish newsletter.

12. Correspondence received; The clerk had circulated correspondence from Indica Properties regarding updates on works at Rennington Village Green. KB reported that top soil had been put down and levelled out for seeding. It was agreed that the company had kept the PC and residents well informed. There was no other correspondence.

13. Any Other Business; JM asked for an item on the May agenda-further discussion regarding a First Responder. CB asked that community bulb planting could be on the next agenda and the community Christmas tree.

KB asked that a Parish Council member could volunteer to be on Rennington Village Hall committee as in the past there had always been two PC members on but currently there was only one. It was agreed that JM will do it for the present.

14. Date of Next Meeting; Thursday 16th May 2019.

