

Minutes of the meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday December 5th 2019

1. **Councillors Present;** Chair K Burdett, J Watson, A Tremlett, L Bosanquet, C Barker, K Nielsen and Cllr J McQueen. Three members of the public were also present. Clerk A Smith. County Councillor W Pattison.
2. **Apologies for Absence;** Nil
3. **Declarations of Interest** Nil
4. **Public Participation Time** Two members of the public were in attendance to hear Mr Murfin and Item 7 Grange Park. Mr Dixon was in attendance to discuss the Parish newsletter and also expressed an interest in Church Road parking.
5. **Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Thursday October 17th 2019** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by CB and seconded by AT and signed by KB. CB had asked for an amendment that it was himself rather than JW who addressed a planning hearing. JM did not approve the minutes as a true record regarding item 11 Land on the corner of Church Road and the B1340. A vote was taken of 6 for and 1 against.
6. **Invited speaker Rob Murfin Northumberland County Council's head of planning services**
Mr Murfin gave an informative talk on planning and how it should be applied. He shared his view that planning is "only applied common sense" and the question to be considered is does the benefit outweigh the harm of a development. He explained that in the New Year he would be working with NALC to deliver planning training sessions to interested Parish Councillors to enable them to get the best outcomes and have their voice heard most effectively. On his visits to Parish Councils this year he had found a number of consistent issues; The parish councils and communities perceive NCC does not do enough proactive enforcement in relation to retrospective matters, affordable housing within overall housing numbers, and Section 106 agreements where it is felt a modest amount of money could make a bigger difference to communities. He said he believed Neighbourhood Plans did give Parish Councils a greater voice in planning as they became a statutory consultee but realised this was a big ask.
7. **Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**
Land by Mason's Arms, Stamford The clerk had contacted the Environment Agency who had requested a few more details on exact location of buried waste. KB said NCC had said they would not take action on the waste as there was a development in the pipeline by the previous developer who has said waste will be moved at that point. It is believed to be for holiday lodges outside of the settlement area but the PC will await the planning application.
Land North of Grange Park, Rennington Mr Murfin had given an update as part of his talk. He had stated that the application was still going through the system with the section 106 to be agreed but that it will be recommended for approval.
Lorries at Rock Midstead LB reported she had met with WP and Highways about the state of the road surface but there was a question of waiting to see where new access road for the A1 would come out. WP had written to Glen Sanderson highlighting the state of the Rock Midstead road and urged LB and the PC to do so as well.
Footpaths Footpaths manager Philip Bradley had replied to the clerk's request to say he would arrange for missing/damaged posts to be replaced.

Dog Signs The footpaths officer had replied to the request for dog on lead signs at Rock to say that these signs would only be put in place by NCC on A&B roads.

8. **Northumberland Estates-North Farm** Councillors had met with Northumberland Estates to discuss the proposed plans and make arrangements for a public meeting where the plans will be displayed. It was agreed the public meeting will be held at Rennington Village Hall on Monday January 6th between 3pm-7pm with a short presentation around 6pm. Representatives from Northumberland Estates and the Parish Council will be on hand. Residents will be alerted via the Parish Newsletter and highlighting the Parish Council's input in the plans by requesting affordable housing, a Community Orchard and woodland with public access, to increase amenity for residents.
9. **Church Road Parking** KB and JW had met with the manager of The Grange Simon Fritton who had highlighted that parking would be helped if there was a local bus service that staff could use. It was agreed the clerk will write to the bus services. They had also met on site with the contractor who had given the lowest quote for work to tarmac the area at £6500 for both sides. The PC was still waiting for the detailed quote and before going ahead the PC would need to consider funding and make details available to Highways. The clerk will chase up.
10. **Fencing for Land on the corner of Church Road and the B1340** The clerk's request for repairs to the broken fencing had been passed to highways by Neighbourhood Services who had carried out an extra grass cut in the village as requested by the PC.
11. **Village Litter Collection** The clerk reported that details of how to run a Community Litter Pick are available on NCC's website and the county council will provide litter pickers for a group of up to 20. It was agreed JM will organise this with details to be published in the Spring edition of the newsletter.
12. **Financial Matters**; *Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix C) This had been circulated. Approval for payment of invoices; NCC extra grass cut on 22/10 £171.60, Clerk's travel Oct/Dec £9, Christmas lights £31.94, Stephen Carey Fund battery £155. Extra invoice submitted after agenda prepared; Cheque for A Tremlett to reimburse him for purchase of Spring bulbs £21.58. Proposed by JW and seconded by LB.*
Mid year budget report and precept discussion The chair moved this item to the January meeting to allow time for a consideration of a rise in the Precept in light of potential works to Church Road.
13. **Town and County Planning Act 1990**;
Pre Planning Consultation NE321 (circulated) proposed communications installation for Arqiva' Smart Meter Network at CSP NE321, verge at Church Road, B1340 Junction, Rennington. The PC had received a pre planning consultation from the developer which it had responded to with an objection stating the visual impact and requesting evidence of other locations that had been considered. At the point of the agenda being prepared the Parish Council had not received the application notification for permitted development from NCC although it had gone on NCC's website and a notice in Rennington. This had caused several residents to contact the PC. The PC sent its objection to the proposal to NCC and queried why it had not received the application notice. Comments can be made until December 20. There were no other plans.
14. **County Councillor Updates (appendix D) this had been circulated.** WP added that she had met with Richard McKenzie and a resident on the C79 at the Littlehoughton junction and he had agreed to erect a few more slow signs.
15. **Highways issues.** The clerk had received a response from Graham Bucknall confirming the request for the gully tanker in Rennington had been received and it had been programmed into visit. WP said that there was only one gully tanker on the road at the moment and she suggested the clerk contact Bob Hodgson at Neighbourhood Services for gully cleaning.
16. **Correspondence received**; There was no other correspondence.

17. **Any Other Business;** CB said the cost for the electrician for the Christmas lights would be £30 plus VAT.
KN raised that a lamppost is needed by Rock Home Farm. It was agreed the clerk will add this to the January agenda.
LB Is looking at solar lighting for Christmas lighting in Rock.
KN raised that he had not received a Code of Conduct for Parish Councillors. The clerk will forward this to him. The chair also said the PC will also contact NALC to request dates for training sessions for new councillors.
The chair made a request that councillors maintain an awareness, in particular when using email, that all correspondence must uphold the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. He asked that councillors consider their language and phraseology as they can be held liable if offence is caused. The chair's remarks followed one email circulated by a parish councillor.
JW said that he wanted to state his support for JM and AT in their efforts to keep the village tidy.
18. **Date of Next Meeting;** Thursday January 9th, 2020.