

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday August 26th 2020

1. **Councillors Present;** Chair K Burdett, Cllrs J Watson, A Tremlett, K Nielsen and J McQueen. Clerks A Smith and L Long.
2. **Apologies for Absence;** Cllrs L Bosanquet
3. **Declarations of Interest** Nil
4. **Public Participation Time** There was one member of the public R Dixon who wished to highlight that the Parish newsletter would be printed mid to late September and any content would be welcome.
5. **Minutes of the Electronic Meeting of the Council held on Thursday July 23rd 2020** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by KN and seconded by AT and signed by KB.
6. **Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

Tidying the parish/Grass strimming: It was agreed that an appeal would be made via the newsletter for anyone interested in trimming and tidying up the Parish before the autumn. NCC had confirmed that they use weedkiller twice a year and they were happy for the PC to trim any areas not touched but it was agreed to get in touch with Bill Pringle to ask that when he is next in the area he could meet the PC who could pinpoint areas that might need strimmed.

Rennington Village Hall Committee appointment: It was agreed that KN would stand as the Parish Council representative and would therefore also represent a presence from Rock.

Proposed Railsite Telecoms Installation at Stamford Farm, Rennington: The PC had responded to the communication by asking them to look at positioning the mast on an existing shorter mast but their response was that this could not be done as the mast needs to be positioned close to the railway line. It was agreed that JW will approach the landowners whose land the mast is going to be on to discuss.

Openreach Broadband/iNorthumberland discussions: The clerk reported that a quote had been received for the properties in Rock but iNorthumberland were currently in discussions regarding this figure.

Proposal for RPC to fund the cost of running the helpline during the Coronavirus lockdown: The chair had investigated and there was no grant available from NCC to reimburse for the cost but AT proposed and JW seconded that the PC could reimburse the cost for the mobile phone and line rental. This amounts to about £40 and KB will submit and invoice. The mobile phone will be retained in case the helpline needed to be reactivated in the future.
7. **Financial Matters;** *Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix C) This had been circulated. There had been the Direct Debit payment for clerk's wages in July of £155.21 and in August of £155.21 to NCC. Interest July £0.17 and August £0.20.. Approval for payment of invoices proposed by At and seconded by JW including payment of the invoice to be submitted by KB.*
8. **Town and County Planning Act 1990;**

(i)20/00541/PREAPP Land North of Heatherfield Cottage, Rennington, development of 19 residential dwellings (8no affordable). (North Farm). Councillors had considered the PC's draft response alongside the plans. It was agreed to update the letter with some minor alterations before submitting to NCC. A copy of the letter will be circulated to councillors. KB also mentioned that Barry Spall of Northumberland Estates had requested the PC's support in the Estates commissioning of a housing needs survey for the Parishes of Rennington and Eglingham.

This has been prompted by a planning application with affordable housing in South Charlton being rejected because there was considered to be no proven need for affordable housing.

(ii) 20/02451/REM Land North Of Grange Park B1340 Rennington To Christon Banks Rennington; Reserved matters application relating to application 18/04410/OUT - seeking approval of access, appearance (plots 1-7 only), landscaping, layout and scale. The PC will respond insisting that the 106 agreement with the affordable housing plot is started prior to commencement on site of any of the other properties. JW also raised that the private footpath should be adopted as a public footway in order to make the development part of the village. JW also raised that the application made no mention of the sewer that serves the village and runs under the development. He stated that this must be protected. JW also requested that the houses are built in natural sandstone only-to avoid any doubt or confusion and avoid artificial stone being substituted. The clerk will respond to NCC mentioning these points.
(iii) To consider any new applications since agenda prepared. There were no other plans.

9. **County Councillor Updates (appendix D) this had been circulated.** Cllr Pattison was not in attendance. KB informed councillors that WP was holding a meeting with Conservative MP Anne Marie Trevelyan and the chairs of the Nine Parishes. He said if anyone had any issues they needed raising to pass them to him.
10. **Highways issues** LTP consultation 2021-22 Councillors agreed on the clerk submitting the following three priorities; 1. To request that the sections of the B1340 road between Rennington and Alnwick be resurfaced and kerbed due to persistent potholes; the bend at the Hockett and the bends before and after Rennington House. 2. To upgrade road markings and signage at Stamford (this has already been requested but has not yet been implemented) 3.To improve the road surface and markings at Rock Midsteads although it is appreciated this could be affected by the A1 development.
11. **Correspondence received** Signage at Mason's Arms The clerk had received a positive response from her letter following the last PC meeting requesting that the damaged sign be replaced and road markings put in place although the work had not yet been completed. (This matter had been further addressed under the LTP requests).
12. **Any Other Business;**
Mr Dixon made his request for any copy for the Parish newsletter which will be published by the end of September.
JM raised a concern that the Church Wall although repointed in some places was in a poor condition in others. It was clarified that the maintenance for the wall is the responsibility of NCC and the clerk will write to ask them to survey the condition of the Church wall. On request of a councillor it was agreed the clerk will also write to inform RPCC of our intentions.
The chair thanked A Smith for her time and service as clerk and presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the PC which was much appreciated.
13. **Date of Next Meeting;** Thursday October 15th 2020.