

Draft Minutes of the electronic meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday June 25th 2020

Minutes

1. **Public Questions** *It was requested that any public questions be emailed to the clerk by 7pm on Wednesday June 24th. There were no questions received.*
2. **Councillors Present:** Chair K Burdett, L Bosanquet, K Nielsen, A Tremlett and J McQueen. Clerk A Smith. There was one member of the public.
3. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Watson. Declarations of Interest; There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday May 28th, 2020 to approve:** The minutes had been circulated and were approved as a true record proposed by LB and seconded by KN. They will be signed at a later date.
9. **Financial Matters:** (the chair brought this matter forward due to the time limited meeting as the clerk will now send off the Certificate of Exemption to the external auditors)
(i) To approve the draft final accounts for 2019/20 and to consider the necessary approvals for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (subject to completion of the internal audit). The chair read out the Annual Governance Statement to councillors who agreed with the statements and approved the accounts.
5. **Matters Arising from the previous meeting.**
Notice of Vacancy for Parish Councillor The chair had displayed the notice and had not had any requests for a by-election and therefore the Parish Council will now look to fill the vacancy by co-option.
Application for Clerk's post The chair had interviewed one applicant and was due to interview a second applicant.
Low fences on verge of Loaning (B1340) The clerk will chase up a response from NCC on whether there would be any objection to the PC removing or replacing the current fencing.
North Farm Development site The chair confirmed that all contaminated waste at the site had been removed and the broken panel fencing replaced with better and stronger fencing and better looking hoarding by the contractors. The chair is hopeful that when work starts again there was a possibility of a stone wall and wooden fencing being erected as on a previous development by Northumberland Estates.
Community Fibre registration Openreach had confirmed receipt of the PC's list of addresses and is preparing a quote.
Rennington Village hall meetings Laurence Dent had written to the PC regarding the reopening of Rennington Village Hall. Councillors agreed that they would be willing to have a face-to-face meeting at the village hall following social distancing measures. The chair will liaise with Laurence to arrange a meeting in the 2/3 week of July.

Jingley Hemmel The clerk had written to NCC regarding the query over compliance with planning permission and this was being looked at by Liz O'Brien of planning enforcement.

6. **Coronavirus:** To consider current activity within the parish and any further ways in which the Council can support the community. The chair said that the number of calls to the Parish helpline had reduced to nil over the last three weeks. He suggested running it for a further 3/4weeks. KN suggested continuing it until the PC holds its first face-to-face meeting in July.
7. **Town and Country Planning Act:** There were no plans to discuss. The chair explained that all planning meetings were now being held by the central planning committee with most applications decided by planning officers and less applications coming through because of the pandemic.
8. **To consider and approve the Parish Council's Risk Assessment** The internal audit had highlighted that the Risk Assessment was due to be reviewed. Councillors had considered the policy and were happy to renew it as it stands.
9. **Financial Matters:**
(ii) Approval for payment of invoices. There was only one invoice to approve for Sally Roberts for the internal audit for £100. This was proposed by KN and seconded by AT. *The chair confirmed he will also sign the cheques agreed at the May meeting now the cheque book has been returned from the internal audit.*

RPC Finance Report 25.6.2020

Balances as at 28.5.2020

Current account	7189.04
Deposit account	4835.88
PC Allocation	2874.68
VH Allocation	1961.20
Total	12024.90

Payments made at last meeting

Peritus renewal	29.99
Northumberland & Newcastle Society (annual subs)	35.00
Clerk's travel (audit documents Renn)	4.50
Printer cartridge	13.19
Total to clerk	17.69

Payments agreed between meetings

None

Deposits

Interest	09/06/2020	0.19
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Payments made by agreed direct debit

NCC clerk's pay	15.6.20	157.96
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Payments to be approved

Sally Roberts (Internal audit)
£100

Balances as at 25.6.2020

Current account	7031.08
Deposit account	4836.07
PC Allocation	2874.87
VH Allocation	1961.20
Total	

10. **County Councillor update** The County Councillor's report for June had been circulated.
11. **Highways Issues;**
 - (i) Cutting of Grass verge at C79 A resident had queried that she understood it could be requested that certain grass verges remain uncut to save wildlife and flowers. The clerk will clarify with Highways (although previous recent correspondence stated verges are cut annually to keep the roads clear and safe and near sightlines and a 3-4ft strip along the rest of the verges) and reply to the resident.
 - (ii) Request from JW that NCC clear the silted/blocked road gully grates; on east side of road from Rock, in between the Rennington village sign and North Farmhouse, 2 road gullies on B1340 on corner at main entrance to Rennington. The clerk will contact NCC clarifying that the problem is with the grates.
12. **Other urgent business;**
 - (i) South Farm houses query JW had raised a concern that a different porch had been built and a new wall each seeming to be different to the Consented development. The clerk will query with the planning enforcement team at NCC.
 - (ii) Rennington Village Hall grant; AT had raised that at the previous meeting it was discussed whether the PC should offer to donate to the village hall for meetings not held due to Coronavirus. It has since clarified that the village hall has received a Government grant for £10,000 in relation to the pandemic so it was agreed it was not necessary to cover the meetings not held.
13. **Time and date of next meeting** The date of the next meeting is proposed for Thursday July 16 2020 (to be confirmed); The chair said he hoped to hold a face-to-face meeting in light of changing Government guidance, the proposed reopening of the village hall and in advance of the next scheduled meeting for September. It is hoped to introduce a new clerk at that meeting.

