

Draft Minutes of the electronic meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday April 16th 2020

This was the first electronic meeting of Rennington Parish Council and the agenda was kept deliberately short.

Minutes

1. **Public Questions** It was requested that any public questions be emailed to the clerk by 7pm on Wednesday April 15th. There were no questions received.
2. **Councillors Present:** Chair K Burdett, L Bosanquet, K Nielsen, A Tremlett and J McQueen. Clerk A Smith and County Councillor W Pattison. There was one member of the public.
3. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Watson, Cllr Barker. Declarations of Interest; There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday February 20th, 2020 to approve.** The minutes had been circulated and were approved as a true record proposed by KN and seconded by JM. They will be signed at a later date.
5. **Any matters arising not on hold due to the National Emergency.**

North Farm development (phase 1) building work has been delayed due to the National Emergency and the chair reported phase 2 had been delayed due to problems completing the final drawings due to the coronavirus lockdown.

A1 details; public consultation. The chair did not feel there was a need for the PC to comment at this stage.

Decision Notice 20/00536/MAST Grass Verge B1340 Rennington to Christon Banks GPS antenna at 8.3m, 1 No.1 antenna at 7.6m, Granted. The Parish Council had objected to this application. The chair said this mast was smaller than the first application.

6. **Coronavirus- any actions or provisional expenditure to authorise.**
Expenditure The chair explained that he had attended an electronic NALC meeting which explained as long as a quorum items can be approved. The chair said the only expense he was aware of at this stage due to the Coronavirus was for the cost of a mobile phone at £17 and £6 monthly line rental for the volunteer helpline currently funded by an individual but reimbursement either via the PC or NCC would be considered at a later date.
Use of Zoom- The chair explained the Zoom version used for this electronic meeting was free for a 40 minute meeting. A plan could be purchased for around £12 a month that would enable meetings to last beyond 40 minutes. It was agreed the purchase of a plan would be considered further down the line if necessary and councillors were agreed in continuing with the free app for the time being.
7. **Any other non-coronavirus urgent issues**

North Farm fencing; The chair explained that photographs had been taken of the damaged site fencing at the North Farm development and sent to Northumberland County Council. The Parish Council and County Councillor had previously been in contact with Northumberland Estates and the contractors and a temporary repair had been made but it was felt this would not withstand high winds.

Litter picking The chair mentioned that a number of residents had been litter picking and had cleared 30 bags of rubbish from the local roads. It was agreed that the clerk will request half a dozen litter pickers from the County Council for them to use.

8. **Approval of draft accounts (appendix C) and approval of clerk's increments.** The accounts were approved by KN and seconded by AT. This included a payment to Northumberland Estates for Rennington Village Hall rent for £425 for Sept 19-March 20 and for which the clerk has invoiced Rennington Village Hall. It also included approval of the clerk's NCC annual increment of £2.75 gross (monthly) which was approved by JM and seconded by LB. The chair explained the annual NALC pay review had been delayed.
9. **Report from the County Councillor** Cllr Pattison's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pattison added that she had attended a Zoom meeting with NALC when it was mentioned that Rennington has 40 people who have come forward as volunteers in the village. She said this was amazing and a credit to the Parish. She also mentioned that a local resident had been appointed in an administrative role at the Washington Nightingale Hospital. The chair also made special mention of the member of the parish, a retired doctor, who has been appointed as the medical director of the new Nightingale Hospital in Washington. He also praised the 40 volunteers in the village who are running the helpline and others who are all doing their bit in a small parish. There was a discussion regarding the vigilance of police and parishioners on the use of holiday homes in the Parish during the National Emergency.
10. **Time and date of next meeting Thursday 14 May 2020** – This would normally be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting is now postponed indefinitely until the emergency corona virus regulations are lifted. Legislation means these do not have to be held during the National Emergency. The chair explained that the positions of chair and vice chair will continue as they are. A decision on how the regular meeting of the Parish Council will be held on May 14th either via electronically or in person will depend on social distancing rules at the time.