

Minutes of the meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday October 17th 2019

1. **Councillors Present;** Acting Chair (vice chair) J Watson, A Tremlett, L Bosanquet, C Barker and Cllr J McQueen. One member of the public was also present. Clerk A Smith.
2. **Apologies for Absence;** Chair Cllr K Burdett, Cllr K Nielsen and County Councillor W Pattison.
3. **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Public Participation Time** 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 5th September 2019** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by LB and seconded by signed by AT.
6. **Matters Arising**

Land by Mason's Arms, Stamford The clerk had written to the Environment Agency regarding the illegally dumped building material. The Agency had confirmed that they would investigate a complaint about illegally dumped waste if more than 20 tonnes. JW said that there was certainly more than this amount and the clerk will now request action from the Environment Agency. The clerk had received a letter from NCC following a letter sent to Mr Murfin at NCC urging that the council reconsider its decision not to take this matter further. The officer confirmed she would get back to the PC once the matter had been discussed with Mr Murfin at the end of October.

Land North of Grange Park, Rennington NCC planning officer Tony Lowe had replied to a letter from the PC chasing up this planning application to say that they were awaiting a further ecology report that had been requested.

Parish Newsletter Robert Dixon attended the meeting and confirmed the second copy of Rennington and Rock Parish News had now been printed. He said it was hoped a third would be published in early December. The cost of printing for this issue had been 9.5p a page which he confirmed is competitive and was of no greater cost per page than when a newsletter was printed some years ago, after the chair had found those costings. Mr Dixon said he was reluctant to reduce costs by reducing the number of pages as there seemed to be a good demand for content. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund another issue. The cost of the second issue was £285 and it was agreed to pay this invoice with the invoice of £332.50 for the first edition (the clerk recorded that the cheque made out for the first edition at the last meeting had been made out to the printer's CBS when the invoice had already been paid by Mrs Dixon and should have been made out to her. The clerk had cancelled the cheque.)

Spraying – the clerk had received a response from Bill Pringle at Highways regarding the yearly schedule of spraying. This followed a request for the grasscutting schedule and costs for extra cuts. It was agreed the clerk will request one extra cut before the end of the season at a cost of £143. This will be reviewed in February for the following year.

Northumberland Estates-North Farm Northumberland Estates had confirmed receipt of the PC's letter in response to their proposed plans and said they would come back to the Council in due course.

7. **Speeding Lorry Traffic at Rock Midsteads** LB said there is a problem with the speed of all lorries using this stretch of road from Drythroppe corner to the entrance to Rock Midstead farm, not just the wood lorries but builders and farm vehicles. Cllr Nielsen had spoken to wood lorry drivers but the problem was not improving and LB asked that the clerk request NCC to put slow signs on the road.
8. **Church Road Parking** The clerk was still waiting for a more detailed quote from KWPurvis. The clerk had received a letter from the manager of The Grange in response to their request for a meeting. Mr Fitton said that staff were urged to use the car park whenever possible. The clerk will ask Mr Fitton for a meeting.
9. **Remembrance Wreath** It was agreed the clerk will order the wreath with a donation from the Parish Council of £17 which now needs to be done via the national Royal British Legion.
10. **Christmas Lights and bulb planting** CB said that Rock Estates had kindly donated the tree for Rennington which will be put in the same place as last year on the green in front of the village hall. It was clarified that the Parish Council will contribute £100 towards the electrician and some extra lighting, which CB thought would cover the costs. The village hall committee will publicise the light switch on which will be on December 7th. The parish vicar will attend with a service.
11. **Land on the corner of Church Road and the B1340** JM raised a concern about the appearance of this piece of land with weeds and a broken fence. It was agreed the clerk will request if this area can be strimmed by highways when she writes about spraying and she will mention the fence which is believed to be NCC property. It was also agreed JM and AT will plant some daffodils on the area.
12. **Village Litter collection;** JM had been concerned about littering on the road from Rennington to Alnwick although this had since been cleaned by NCC. It was agreed the clerk would get details from Cllr Pattison regarding a litter cleaning scheme she had previously mentioned.
13. **Financial Matters;** *Statement of Bank Account Balances (appendix C) This had been circulated. Approval for payment of invoices; Proposed by AT and seconded by LB for; Parish newsletter printing costs £617.50 1st ed £332.50 and 2nd £285. Information Commissioner £40 and Royal British Legion £40. Deposits £2000 2nd half of Precept, HMRC Vat return £365.98.*
14. **Town and County Planning Act 1990;** 19/03479/VARYCO | Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 17/04588/FUL | Farm Buildings East Of North Farm Rennington Village Rennington Northumberland Circulated following the last meeting and there were no objections.
Local Area Hearing for 16/04246/FUL Land West of Masons Arms, variation of condition.
The original application was for roofing of Spanish slate in keeping with the surrounding traditional buildings. The developer had then used cheaper concrete tiles.
Cllr Barker had spoken in objection at the hearing as had County Cllr Pattison.
The vote was 8-0 to reject the application. Cllr Barker was thanked by the parish council for attending on its behalf.
15. **County Councillor Updates (appendix D) this had been circulated.**
16. Highways issues. The clerk had written to Highways requesting the gullies be cleaned but she had not received a response and will chase up as a matter of urgency.

17. **Correspondence received;** Rennington Footpath No4. Proposed diversion between Rock Village and Rock Midsteads Farm (circulated); There was no objection to the proposal. The footpath currently goes through the farmyard and Cllr LB felt this would be much safer.
Cllr LB also requested the clerk contact the footpaths officer Philip Bradley to request signage for a footpath from Rock to Rennington along Rock Mill Road and repair of broken signs at Wisplaw entrance
NALC notes from meeting with Rob Murfin, Director of Planning NCC (circulated). Cllr Watson noted that Mr Murfin was looking to ensure NCC used powers to make landowners do work as stipulated and seek to recover costs. Perhaps it would be possible to persuade them to do that on the work at the Masons Arms.
18. **Any Other Business;** LB asked that the clerk could contact 's dog warden and request for dogs on lead signs at Rock.
LB said that in regards to 106 requests she would suggest a tennis court next to the cricket pitch at Rock for all to use and permanent nets. The clerk confirmed she had put in the general request for sporting facilities and parking following the last meeting but this further suggestion could be mentioned to Mr Murfin when he attends the next meeting.
19. **Date of Next Meeting;** Thursday January. It was agreed to start this meeting at 7pm since Rob Murfin Director of Planning at NCC had been invited to attend to speak at 7.30pm.