

**Minutes of the Annual meeting of Rennington Parish Council held on Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2019**

1. **Councillors Present;** K Burdett Chair, J Watson Vice Chair, A Tremlett, L Bosanquet, C Barker. County Cllr Pattison. Two members of the public were also present. Clerk A Smith.
2. **Apologies for Absence;** Cllr J McQueen. The chair wished Cllr McQueen all the best in his recovery from a recent illness.
3. **Declarations of Interest** Two members of the public were in attendance in regard to planning application 19/03043/VARYCo. The chair proposed this was moved to after item 5 on the agenda.
4. **Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019** The minutes were approved as a true record proposed by LB and seconded by CB, signed by KB. CB raised that at the last meeting and recorded in the minutes he had asked that the question of donations be considered. The clerk had said donations would be on the October agenda but following a brief discussion it was agreed that in past discussions it had been agreed not to make donations as it was difficult to establish how donations would directly benefit parish residents.
5. **Appointment of new councillor** A resident of Rock, Karl Nielsen had been invited to the meeting as a prospective parish councillor. As the parish council has remaining unfilled seats it is able to co-opt a councillor. Following discussion it was agreed unanimously to co-opt Mr Nielsen as a parish councillor. The clerk had prepared the required paperwork for Mr Nielsen.
6. **Town and Country Planning Act** Application No 19/03043/VARYCo Variation of condition 12 (materials) pursuant to planning permission 16/04246/FU Land West of Masons's Arms, Stamford Cottages. Two residents addressed the Parish Council regarding their objection to this planning application. Stephen Baggott said that the original application was for roofing of Spanish slate in keeping with the surrounding traditional buildings. The developer had then used cheaper concrete tiles. Mr Baggott said he felt the application to change the condition to concrete tiles should be rejected as it is not in keeping with the local architecture. KB urged that the PC support the residents and object in the strongest possible terms that the condition is not relaxed. He also urged the residents to write to NCC with their objections. It was unanimously agreed to write in objection stating that the original conditions should be adhered to and querying the point of conditions if they are not enforced. KB also spoke of the history of the site and that waste had been dumped on the land and not cleared (to be discussed later on the agenda). WP urged that the PC also write to Rob Murfin and she said she would highlight the matter with him.
7. **Matters Arising**

**Land north of Grange Park, Rennington;** There had been no further correspondence on this matter and the clerk will write to NCC planning department enclosing a copy of the PC's letter of objection, to query what is happening. A letter will also be sent to the head of planning Rob Murfin. This was agreed 5-1 with Cllr CB abstaining from comment.

**Parish Newsletter** The chair reported that the Parish newsletter had been well received and another copy was due for publication. At a previous meeting the PC had agreed to fund printing costs for the first two editions and this will be honoured. However it was felt the printing costs of the first edition were quite high and it was agreed to request Mr Dixon might look at alternative costings. The clerk will research the records to find the printer used for the previous newsletter.

Wisplaw Farm Entrance Cllr JW was of the opinion that following the site visit with NCC this matter could not be taken any further.

Wishlist of Community Benefits The chair reiterated that at the Nine Parishes meeting Rob Murfin had urged PC's to present him with a wishlist of community benefits that could be considered when a 106 agreement is set. Following discussion between councillors it was agreed the clerk will write to Mr Murfin with two matters; to improve sporting facilities in the parish for all age groups and to improve parking facilities in the parish.

Grass/tree trimming The clerk had written to Bill Pringle, Senior Neighbourhood Services team leader, who had detailed that the Parish has 12/13 cuts over the season but extra cuts can be made at a cost to the PC. The council had come out following the PC's request to inspect overgrowth and weeds but prior to this residents had cut it themselves. LB suggested the clerk write to Bill Pringle and ask the cost of extra cuts and to provide a schedule of road and verges spraying. WP urged that councillors may wish to attend the next nine parishes meeting where Glen Sanderson is a guest speaker.

8. **RPC response to proposals for phase 2 development at North Farm (appendix B)**

The Parish Council had received a Pre-Planning Stage Sketch Scheme from Northumberland Estates. The proposal was discussed and it was agreed that a public meeting should be arranged with Northumberland Estates to present the ideas to the residents to seek their support.

9. **Land East of Masons's Arms, Stamford** KB had raised the matter of illegally dumped building waste on the site with Rob Murfin head of NCC planning and the PC had been in communication with the planning officer Liz O'Brien as a result of this. Ms O'Brien had written to the PC following a site visit on July 23 stating that it had been agreed no more action would be taken as to bring in machinery would mean disrupting water meters, new turfed areas and newly planted trees. However KB stated that the trees planted would have cost about £400. It was resolved that the clerk will write to the Environment Agency highlighting the land as an illegal dump and request action. JW raised that the land can be accessed via the road that was used for the builders without great disruption. It was agreed the clerk would also write to NCC again highlighting this.

10. **Church Road Parking** The clerk had received three quotes for work varying in amount. It was agreed that one of the quotes needed to provide a more detailed quote. NCC had said they would not provide a quote for works as it was unlikely to be competitive. WP will speak with Council Officer Neil Snowdon. The consensus was to see how the grasscrete works through the winter months and in the meantime the clerk will write to the Grange care home asking that staff use their parking area provided.

11. **Christmas lights and community bulb planting** LB said she will donate the Christmas tree for Rennington and look into solar lighting costs for the Rock tree. WP mentioned solar lighting but it was also discussed that it would be best to use the lighting acquired last year at Rennington. The PC agreed to make £100 available towards costs. CB has asked that bulb planting be put on the agenda as he considers that it enhances the community and is something visible parishioners can see. LB said they would not require bulbs in Rock. AT highlighted that no more bulbs were needed on the green and it could be difficult to cut grass around them. It was agreed to postpone a decision until the next meeting for bulb planting sites to be identified and CB agreed to gather names of anyone wishing to help plant -this could be called for in the newsletter.

12. **Parish Website, Land on the corner of Church Road and the B1340 and Village Litter collection;** these items had been requested on the agenda by Cllr McQueen and so it was agreed would be delayed until the next meeting.

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 £332.50, Peritus backup support £48, Insurance renewal £175.07, Clerk's travel expenses and printer cartridge £27.50, Northumberland Estates rent £425. Between meetings payment by direct debit had been made to NCC for clerk's wages; £304.91.*
14. **Town and County Planning Act 1990;**  
The clerk had only just received plans for variation to farm building, East of North Farm. It was agreed to circulate and comments back to KB.
15. **County Councillor Updates;** WP's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. She highlighted log banks for the winter and grit bins. She raised a concern brought up by an Embleton resident about the four road junction at Stamford. The resident said she had previously written to NCC requesting whether a mirror could be put in place but this was refused by NCC as they are no longer accepted as a road safety measure. It was agreed that the junction does have limited viewing. WP said a roundabout would be useful and suggested this could be a transport priority.
16. **Highways Issues** JW had asked that this become an agenda item as it used to be. JW asked that the clerk write to highways and ask that the drainage gullies in and around the village be cleaned and surveyed prior to the winter months to ensure they can deal with the effects of wind and heavy rain.
17. **Correspondence received;** **Northumberland Local Plan Hearing** – the clerk had received notification of deadlines for applications for those wishing to speak at hearings, **Local Transport Plan priorities** – the clerk had received the annual request for Local transport priorities and it was agreed councillors will consider and submit their priorities to the chair before the deadline of October 4th, **NCC consultation on street naming** at F S Vickers and Son , South East Far, Rennington. Councillors accepted the suggestion of the proposed address of South Meadow, **bad language complaint;** the clerk reported on a complaint of bad language by workmen on a site in the village. The clerk had contacted the developer and the matter had been dealt with swiftly and satisfactorily. The clerk had received a waste and environmental guide for distribution, and request for funding letters from the Hospice and Age Concern.
18. **Any Other Business;** Data protection fees; The chair highlighted that the PC will need to pay a fee to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). It was agreed the clerk will register the PC for data protection fees.
19. **Date of Next Meeting;** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October.