

Rennington Parish Council

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PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Rennington Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 2nd December, 2021 in Rock Estate Office.

Present: Cllrs Robert Dixon (Chair), Karl Nielsen (Vice Chair), Stephen Baggott, Alan Tremlett, Phil Green, F Bosanquet.

In attendance: Clerk Deb Still, NCC Cllr Wendy Pattison and 1 member of the public.

168/21 Apologies for Absence – Cllr L Bosanquet.

169/21 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Dixon informed the council of a pecuniary interest in relation to item 183/21 in relation to a payment to Jane Dixon to reimburse her for an invoice paid to the printers of the Parish Newsletter.

170/21 Public Participation Time - One member of the public updated the Council concerning the Drains and Culverts under item 172/21/v.

171/21 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday October 7th 2021
RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Baggott) that the Minutes be accepted and signed as a correct and true record and NOTED that Cllr Tremlett's recollection was that item 142/21/viii had resolved that all Councillors would attend the meeting with Northumberland Estates.

Minutes of the Meetings of the EGM of Thursday October 28th 2021
RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted and signed as a correct and true record (proposed by Cllr F Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr Green).

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on October 28th 2021 – the minutes were NOTED and will be put forward for approval at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

172/21 Matters Arising from the previous meeting

i) Report Back on Parish Council Documents from Filing Cabinet and filing cabinet replacement key.

Minutes of the Council have been located going back to 8/5/2006 and some incomplete financial records. Northumberland Archives has previously confirmed that they only have the following records 'PC 88/1 - [NRO 5707] - Receipt & payment account book, Rennington Parish Council - 1949-1996'. A member of the public suggested checking with Northumberland Archives whether they hold any of the Council's minutes in the Dickson Archer Thorp collection as Mr Thorp was the Parish Clerk for a period.

Application was made for a replacement key for the Bisley filing cabinet, but the company need a photograph as well as the number on the key and there is currently no access to Rennington Village Hall due to storm damage.

ii) Rennington Parish Definitive Map showing public rights of way

This has been provided for free by the NCC and a question was raised about NCC digital maps which are available online.

iii) Receipt of Acceptance of Office of Cllr Fred Bosanquet of 7.10.21

Acceptance of Office RECEIVED and NOTED.

iv) Update on Schedule of grass cutting & removal of invasive species in Rennington Burn

NOTED that Himalayan Balsam is spreading along the banks of the Rennington Burn. RESOLVED that the Clerk write to NCC to seek confirmation that the plants along the Burn be cut down annually and removed before they set seed.

v) A Bridge Inspector from NCC came to Rennington unannounced to inspect the drains and culverts on 10th November and was met by former councillor John Watson. The Bridge Inspector was not aware that the section of watercourse immediately upstream of the Southfield Bridge was part of the public highway and is the responsibility of NCC Highways to maintain. Necessary works were agreed but not confirmed in writing as requested by NCC. RESOLVED that the Clerk write to NCC to seek confirmation of works carried out and necessary immediate and ongoing maintenance works.

NOTED that Stamford Burn flooded on the night of 26th November (Storm Arwen).

vi) Update on cutting back grass and foliage in the area around the Northumbria Water Pumping Station

Clerk to write to Northumbria Water.

173/21 Adoption of New Policies and Procedures

Co-option Policy – RESOLVED to forward draft policy to NCC Democratic Services for comment.

Standing Orders – APPROVED and ADOPTED the policy circulated in advance of the meeting (Proposed by Cllr Green and Seconded by Cllr F Bosanquet)

Financial Regulations – APPROVED and ADOPTED the policy circulated in advance of the meeting (Proposed by Cllr Baggott and Seconded by Cllr Green)

Reserves Policy APPROVED and ADOPTED the policy circulated in advance of the meeting and RESOLVED to transfer £875 from the Treasurer's Account to the Business Bank Instant Reserve Account to bring the account up to the level of RPC Designated Reserves (Proposed by Cllr Tremlett and Seconded by Cllr Nielsen).

Community Public Access Defibrillator Policy & Procedure Document

APPROVED and ADOPTED (Proposed by Cllr Baggott and Seconded by Cllr Green)

NOTED that Policies and Procedures will be published on the Parish Council website (save for the CPAD policy which is an internal document that contains personal information and will not be published).

NOTED that there is no Defibrillator at Rock – Cllr F Bosanquet will contact Rock Cricket Club to discuss possible provision.

174/21 Neighbourhood Development Plan

i) APPROVED & ADOPTED the Terms of Reference of the Working Group circulated in advance of the meeting (Proposed by Cllr Baggott and Seconded by Cllr Tremlett).

ii) Analysis of first phase of community consultation – Cllr Baggott gave a summary of the consultation survey responses. The summary will be published on the PC website. Five areas of policy are indicated for development in the next stage of the project – local amenities and community facilities, environment, transport, housing and local economy.

iii) Update on grant funding – the Government has still not announced a decision on grant funding for NDPs post March 2022 when the current scheme ends. RESOLVED for the Clerk to write to the local MP about the issue.

**175/21 Planning Issues and Enforcement
Live Planning Applications**

i) **21/03303/DISCON** Street Lighting - North Farm Site, Rennington (Condition 18 of 20/03446/VARYCO) – RPC was invited to comment and objected to the already part installed urban style lighting scheme and its negative impact on Rennington's 'dark skies' environment. Nevertheless, the application has been permitted. Subsequently, Cllr Dixon has met with the newly appointed planning officer for this development who has resolved to revisit the intended scheme with the developer's agent.

ii) **21/03294/FUL** Erection of 4 no. dwellings etc., Rock. NOTED that CPRE Northumberland has objected to this Planning Application.

iii) **21/00752/FUL** Land west of 1 Rennington Village. Remains undecided.

iv) **20/04399/REM** and **20/02451/REM**. Reserved matters land north of Grange Park. NOTED that both applications have been permitted and NOTED that this is Outline Planning Permission only, but NCC has placed a number of planning conditions including the choice of materials and on surface water drainage detail.

Other planning issues

v) 21/01316/BRCOND North Farm Site Management – NOTED that a complaint relating to the developers use of the C73 roadway made by RPC by telephone and by email resulted in action by NCC contacting the developers within 48 hours. NOTED that the developers took action to prevent excessive water and mud on the road and to stop contractor vehicle parking.

vi) Report back from Meeting with Northumberland Estates following negative response from NCC Planning Authority to pre-planning application for Phase 2 of the North Farm Development

Cllrs Dixon, Baggot and Green(part) met remotely on TEAMS platform with Shona Ferguson, Development Planner with Northumberland Estates (NE). The meeting was held at the request of NE following the negative response from NCC Planning Authority to their 'pre-planning application submission' regarding the potential for a North Farm Phase 2 development. NE's position is that they have no plans to progress further with a Phase 2 proposal unless RPC would support an application. The councillors present confirmed that any decision on further development proposals would need full Council consideration. RESOLVED to consider the matter at a full council EGM at 6.30 on Thursday 20th January 2021 and to share the summary of the consultation survey results with Northumberland Estates (and publish on the RPC website).

vii) Report back from Meeting with new Planning Officer for RPC area

Cllr Dixon met with a new planning officer who will be based in Berwick and will be part of a north Northumberland planning officer team (covering the>NNLAC area). On appointment, the planning officer invited Cllr Dixon to meet and discuss the Rennington North Farm development – see above 175/21 i). The meeting included a walk around Rennington Village.

viii) Update on Stamford Lea (Mason's Arms)

The spoil has finally been removed together with topsoil and the area has been flattened.

ix) 17/04588/FUL North Farm Rennington - Installation of foul and surface water drainage – RPC's concerns have been investigated and NCC has confirmed that the developer is building the new drainage as per the agreed plans and that there is no increased flood risk on or off-site. Councillors will monitor any flooding and report it to NCC.

x) Any planning applications submitted since the drafting of the agenda
None.

176/21 Training – Councillors & Clerk update

Cllr Dixon encourages Councillors to keep up to date with issues relevant to their roles. At a future meeting, Cllr Dixon would like to consider allocating specific councillors or groups of councillors to areas of expertise in order to better focus the work of the council.

NOTED the 5 training courses booked by new councillor F Bosanquet.

RESOLVED to APPROVE the ILCA training for the Clerk (Proposed by Cllr Baggott and Seconded by Cllr Green.

177/21 Rennington Village Hall Report

Cllr F Bosanquet is the new PC representative on the Rennington Village Hall Committee. He confirmed that Storm Arwen has caused significant damage to the Hall with a hole in the roof at the rear and a number of other slates off or loose. It is not safe to enter the Hall at present. The insurers have requested 3 repair estimates and the Xmas Tree Lights event has been cancelled. There was discussion about the issues reported on previously by the Chair of the Village Hall Committee ie the timber treatment to the roof and the replacement loft insulation and whether the Committee might consider combining all necessary works.

It was NOTED that grants and low cost loans are available for such works to a Parish Council. Cllr Bosanquet will be attending the next Committee Meeting on 9th December.

178/21 Register of Assets

Review of redrafted Register of Assets (circulated in advance of the meeting). RESOLVED to agree to move this item for consideration at the next meeting.

179/21 Purchase and Maintenance of Assets

The noticeboards at Rock and Rennington are damp and need replacing. The seating on the Village Green at Rennington needs renovation and is not very inviting. RESOLVED to agree that Councillors will send a list to the Clerk within the next 14 days of items in the parish that need renovation, replacement and/or propose the purchase of new items for the benefit of the parish with a view to making a grant application in the New Year.

180/21 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lunch

The Big Jubilee Lunch has been announced for Saturday/Sunday 4th/5th June 2021. Grants are available to Parish Councils to fund events and free road closures are also available from NCC. The Council would like to organise a community event or events in conjunction with any other local interested community organisations such as the Rennington Village Hall, the Cricket Club, Rennington and Rock Churches. Councillors will make enquiries in Rennington, Rock and Stamford to sound out opinion and canvass likely organisers.

181/21 Update on Website options

Cllr Baggott has looked at options with specialist parish council web site developers and set up costs would be around £650 with annual hosting fees of £150 - £250 depending on if email was required etc. RESOLVED to agree that Cllr Baggott explore the more expensive options of a joint website with other community organisations in the parish and consider options for grant funding.

182/21 Communications/Correspondence Received

Email received from a member of the public regarding the Designated Development Boundary for Rennington – no further action.

183/21 Financial Matters

i) Financial Report and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances as at 30.9.21b November 21 (monthly financial report circulated in advance).

Treasurer's Current Account Balance 30th September £7491.63

Business Bank Instant Reserve Account

Parish Council Reserves £2,875.54

Community Benefit Fund for Village Hall £1,961.50

ii) It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved (Cllr Green Proposed and Cllr Baggott Seconded):

Clerk's mileage by car to 2 RPC meetings (2x 9 miles x.45)£ 8.10

Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration £ 120 00

ILCA Training Fee for Clerk £ 144.00

Rennington Village Hall Hire to 1.10.21 £ 120.00

Cllr Fred Bosanquet's Training courses x 5 £ 25.00

Payment to Jane Dixon re Inv 2254 from Millfield Media Printing Newsletter 13.7.21 £ 188.00

Payment to NCC for annual insurance (PL, EL etc) £ 175.07

184/21 Online Banking

Cllrs Baggott and Green have not yet received confirmation from Lloyds Bank that their applications as signatories are approved. RESOLVED to ascertain whether a Lloyds Bank Business Debit card has an annual fee payable before applying for one.

185/21 County Councillor

Monthly Report (circulated in advance). County Cllr Pattison mentioned the NCC's Communities Together Team who were in the parish on 1st December – they can assist with or signpost people with financial and benefit issues, housing, employment, shopping, prescriptions, loneliness, mental health, domestic abuse or concerns about neighbours and are open 9am – 6pm 7 days a week on 01670 620015.

County Councillor Pattison also noted that Northern PowerGrid has been putting people up in hotels and are offering compensation to households affected by the power outages.

186/21 Budget and Precept Setting

i) Update on 21-22 budget

ii) first consideration of 22-23 budget and precept.

NOTED that in by March 22 the Parish Council is likely to have spent £1600 from Reserves which is not sustainable. Rennington Parish Council's share of the NCC Council Tax, known as the Precept, has barely been increased in recent years. In 2015/16 it was £4000 and in 21/22 it was £4120 equivalent to an increase of 0.5% for each year when costs have been increasing. The Council Tax Base will be notified by NCC on 8th December and the Precept must be set and requested by the Parish Council by 28th January.

RESOLVED to discuss budgets and precept in further detail at an EGM on 9th December 2021 at 6.30pm.

- 187/21 Setting dates for future Meetings** (report circulated in advance of meeting)
RESOLVED to agree the meeting dates in the report and the additional EGMs in December 2021 and January 2022.

188/21 Other Urgent Business

Xmas Tree in Rennington – this cannot be lit from Rennington Village Hall (RVH) due to the storm damage. Cllr Dixon will approach the Chair of RVH to see whether the Council can assist with erecting the tree on the Village Green and a lighting up ceremony using battery operated lights.

Resilience of the parish

Storm Arwen has affected many parishioners with damage to trees and buildings and power outages over several days (ongoing at the time of this meeting for some parishioners) and loss of internet, land lines and mobile phones for some people. Rennington Village Hall which is registered as a community centre for emergencies has not been able to open because of the storm damage sustained. The Horseshoes Inn was offering hot meals via Facebook posts to 'followers'. Councillors talking to residents and assessing damage and support needed by vulnerable residents had no form of identification.

RESOLVED to agree that Cllrs Dixon, Green and F Bosanquet will consult with residents and develop a written plan of how to respond as a community in a range of different scenarios to support parishioners in need in future.

- 189/21 Date of Next Meeting – EGM** Thursday 9th December at 6.30 pm (RPC Business Meeting to discuss budget)

Meetings 2022 – 23

13th January 2022
20th January 2022
3rd February 2022
3rd March 2022
7th April 2022 (Rennington Annual Parish Meeting)
5th May 2022 (RPC Annual General Meeting)
9th June 2022
7th July 2022
1st September 2022
6th October 2022
1st December 2022
5th January 2023
2nd February 2023
2nd March 2023
6th April 2023