

## RENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk:** Deb Still, 26 Swansfield Park Road, Alnwick, NE66 1AT

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### MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Rennington Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at Rennington Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs Robert Dixon (Chair), Stephen Baggott, Alan Tremlett, Phil Green, Fred Bosanquet, Lalage Bosanquet, Ian Woods.

**In attendance:** Deb Still (Parish Clerk), 2 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7pm.

**181/22 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Karl Nielsen, County Cllr Wendy Pattison.

**182/22 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs L Bosanquet and F Bosanquet declared a pecuniary interest in respect of item 196/22

**183/22 Public Participation Time**

A member of the public raised two issues regarding last month's minutes:

1) That the new benches on the Village Green look very good but that the paving area looks a little unfinished as there appear to be 2 paving stones missing. An inquiry was made about the 2 old benches that have been replaced: one of which is now positioned on the C73 verge opposite the bottom of Wisplaw Farm Lane although not secured; and the other is currently in the Chair of the Council's back garden prior to renovation [further discussion took place at item 191/22].

2) The member of the public expressed dismay that the joint editors of the RenRock News will no longer be publishing a newsletter for the Parish. He offered to bring a proposal to the Parish Council to produce, jointly with another parishioner, a newsletter that would be the vehicle of RPC and would reflect the views of all parts of the community within the current £500 budget.

**184/22 Minutes of the Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr S Baggott and seconded by Cllr L Bosanquet) that the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> July be accepted and signed as a correct and true record.

**185/22 Acceptance of Declaration of Office from Ian Woods**

The Acceptance of Declaration of Office by Ian Woods was RECEIVED.

Signed ..... Dated .....

**186/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Since the last RPC meeting, further meetings have taken place with major landowners in the Parish which have been positive. The working group may contact other landowners.

Ludman Planning Ltd has produced the first draft of a NDP that will be circulated to all members of the working group and Parish Councillors when some errors have been corrected.

The Technical Consultants have been allocated (RPC has no choice in the matter) and their services are funded centrally by Locality on behalf of DLUHC (not by RPC). The consultants (AECOM) will assist with a 'housing needs' analysis and establishing forward 'design codes'.

**187/22 RPC proposed planning application for North Farm to remove/turn off the five street lights**

RPC has made the application that will shortly appear on the Planning Portal. Councillors will publicise this via their networks and through discussion with members of the public. Cllr W Pattison will be invited to ask for the application to be called in so that the application can be discussed and decided by the Area Committee as it raises important issues for Northumberland.

**188/22 Training**

No-one has undertaken any training since the last meeting.

**18922 Parish Community Resilience and Emergency Plan**

i) So far 19 people have volunteered to be members of the Parish CREP team with a few more also due to join. A meeting will be called in November of all the members of the team. Nigel Fisher, the NCC Civil Contingencies Officer, will also be invited to the meeting.

**190/22 Rennington Village Hall**

i) **Update on the Lease.** The Clerk is still waiting for a response to additional questions asked of the solicitor at the National Association of Local Council's in consideration of the response from Rennington Village Hall Management Committee.

ii) **Other updates**

RVHMC has a meeting with Northern PowerGrid next week to discuss grants for solar panels – indicative costs of around £24k have been obtained. Northumberland Estates is very interested in solar panels and are about to install them on a new development and will be happy to share their knowledge.

**191/22 Awards for All Grant**

i) Update on purchases

The company who is due to install the three noticeboards is very slow to respond. The Clerk will continue to chase them but if they cannot confirm the installation within a timely period will need to investigate other options.

The old benches that have been removed were due to be broken up and disposed of. The one originally donated by the Grange is not fit for public use as all four legs are rotten at the base. Cllr Dixon had agreed to take the bench and attempt repair and make a donation to the Grange. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bench was due to be taken away by a resident in the community but on the day of installation decided against this. The installers repositioned it near to Wisplaw Farm Lane as a temporary measure – it is very dirty and has not been treated for some time. Rock Churchyard or Rock Farm Trail could renovate it and use or it could be offered to Rock Cricket club.

Decision on the resiting of benches to be deferred to the next meeting.

**192/22 Defibrillator**

There have been no deployments of the Defibrillator in the last 6 months.

The manufacturer carried out a full service and fixed a recurring fault. One set of defibrillator pads will require replacement by the end of March 2023 and the spare set later in the Summer 2023.

**193/22 Communications/Correspondence Received**

i) Correspondence has been received from a parishioner concerning Rennington NCC verges being cut short by residents and rocks left on verges that can be obstacles for pedestrians. The resident enquired whether the verges can be left to naturalise and encourage biodiversity and be managed solely by the County Council. RPC considered the issues and that residents have different views with some wanting to keep the verges tidy and stop cars roughing up the verges. It would be for NCC to complain and or discourage particular behaviour on their own verges. AGREED to maintain the status quo and write to the resident explaining the decision.

ii) A resident has reported that recent rainstorms have caused a number of roadway side drains in Rennington Village to overflow - on C73 near pub entrance; on south side of the C73 opposite No 10 North Farm Mews; and at the junction of Church Road and Church View. These are longstanding problems that have been previously reported to and investigated by NCC. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

iii) A resident has reported that Northern PowerGrid has broken a 'cundy drain' under the C73 during their ongoing improvement to electricity supply work in the central area of Rennington Village. The Clerk to write to Northern Powergrid to seek assurance that they have carried out the repairs.

iv) Consideration of any received since the drafting of the agenda. A resident has reported that 2 streetlights are not working. The Clerk to contact NCC to report the streetlight on the Village Green.

v) Noting that the Annual Act of Remembrance service and laying of wreaths will take place at 3.30pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at All Saints' Church Rennington. The Annual Act of Remembrance will take place in Rock on Friday,

Signed ..... Dated .....

11<sup>th</sup> November. The Clerk to order a second wreath to be laid in Rock at the same price as the one for Rennington – to be ordered from the Royal British Legion.

**194/22 County Councillor Reports for October**

i) The report for October was NOTED.

ii) Cllr Dixon attended a 9 Parishes meeting organised by County Cllr Wendy Pattison. Cllr Dixon reported that officers from the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team (Northumbria Police) gave a presentation, the main points of which were:

- four PCs and 2 PCSO (Police Community Support Officers) on shifts cover the geographical area from South of Warkworth to South of Rothbury and up the coast to Beadnell across to Powburn. The team is currently 1 officer short
- the team is very stretched and 80% of their work is in and around Alnwick
- the team is dealing more or less daily with people with mental health issues as the provision of support for those with mental health problems is limited in this part of Northumberland
- speeding issues are not a major problem although it is recognised that public perception is different. However, when measured/monitored they generally find that speed limits are observed. Speed limit decisions are a NCC responsibility
- vehicle parking is recognised as an issue of concern to communities but the Police have limited powers – NCC is responsible for parking restriction matters.
- Crime is at relatively low levels in this part of Northumberland. Parishes to the west of the county do experience higher levels of farmland related. crime and land/forest anti-social behaviour.

See item 198/22 for the new online community wide communications service supported and being used by Northumbria Police.

Neal Easton, Transport Manager for NCC, also gave a presentation where he stated that rural public bus services would probably diminish further. Subject to central government funding, a trial rural transport system will be piloted that is somewhere between ‘Dial-a-Ride’ and ‘Uber’ during 2023/24.

**195/22 RPC Website Analytics**

The Latest Quarterly Report was considered. The highest number of ‘sessions’ was for the Scarecrow Festival (over 4 times the next highest ‘session’) with people looking for information about the annual event.

**196/22 Planning Matters**

**Location** Barn 1 Rock South Farm Alnwick Northumberland

**Application** No. 22/03444/FUL

**Change to approved planning approval** 15/00653/FUL to change of use from former agricultural building to form dwelling | Barn 1 Rock South Farm Alnwick Northumberland.

Signed ..... Dated .....

Discussion led to a decision to raise NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

**197/22 RPC Brand ID and Brand Guidelines**

Tony Lomas has provided the above on a voluntary basis. A Vote of Thanks was given for his hard work and excellent logo and branding that the Council will use as much as possible. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks.

**198/22 Northumbria Connected**

Northumbria Connected – multi public services (including Northumbria Police) online communication tool “to ensure that the police, and other public services, are delivering on the issues that affect communities across the Northeast”. Members of the public can sign up for updates and newsletters and report issues to NP that impact their lives and communities so that NP can take them into account when planning services. The website is [www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk](http://www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk).

**199/22 Keeping People Safe, Warm and Well this Winter**

NCC, Citizens’ Advice and Community Action Northumberland have worked together to provide a digital one stop shop for signposting Northumberland residents to appropriate resources: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Health-and-social-care/warm-homes-leaflet.pdf>.

**200/22 Financial Matters**

**i)The Financial Report** and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances were NOTED:

Treasurer’s Current Account Balance (at 30.9.22)	<b>£25,911.39</b>
Business Bank Instant Reserve Account (at 7.9.22)	<b>£8,713.12</b>
Made up of:	
Parish Council Reserves	£6,751.10
Community Benefit monies held for RV Hall	£1,962.02

**ii) Current payments were agreed:**

Clerk’s Mileage to RPC and return 29.9.22	<b>£4.05</b>
Information Commissioner’s Office direct debit due to Be taken in October for the annual Data Protection Fee for registration as a Data Controller	<b>£35.00</b>
Payment for installation of benches on Village Green	<b>£200</b>
Payment for two Remembrance Day Wreaths	<b>£47.96</b>
Planning Application Fee re Streetlights app	<b>£117</b>

Request received from Rennington Village Hall to transfer monies held by RPC in respect of Community Benefit

Signed ..... Dated .....

Fund **£1,962.20** (including interest accrued between 7.9.22 and transfer of funds).

**iii) It was NOTED that:**

a) £10,000 grant was received from Groundworks for the Rennington Neighbourhood Development Plan

**iv) Bank Reconciliation by Councillor**

Cllr Green has checked the Bank Reconciliations of the two Council bank accounts pursuant to Financial Regulations 2.2 and confirmed that the accounts reconcile.

**v) Online Banking**

Neither Cllrs Green or Baggott has received any further news from Lloyds bank regarding their applications for online banking. The Clerk to start the process again.

**vi) Spend Against Budget (6 monthly report)**

The spend against budget was NOTED.

vii) A Vote of Thanks was AGREED to the Editors of the Newsletter for their hardwork and the Clerk to send a letter of thanks. In addition, the editors to be asked for their final account to see if any monies are owing as the total grant agreed has not yet been paid.

**201/22 Cooption**

It was AGREED that Katie Robertson be coopted as a Parish Councillor (proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Green). Cllr Robertson's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was RECEIVED.

**202/22 Any Other Urgent Business**

It was NOTED that building works at Murphy's Cottage, Rennington Village appeared to be of a more significant scale than that of Permitted Development. AGREED that the Clerk will raise an enquiry with NCC.

**203/22 Confidential Matters**

RESOLVED to exclude the public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (office administration matters).

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Rennington Village Hall.

**Future Meeting Dates**

12th January 2023

9th February 2023

9th March 2023

Signed ..... Dated .....