

RENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Rennington Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 29th September, 2022 at Rennington Village Hall.

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

In attendance: Deb Still (Parish Clerk), 3 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7pm.

163/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Phil Green, County Cllr Wendy Pattison.

164/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chair's application for Dispensation for item 177/22 was withdrawn.

165/22 Public Participation Time

No issues were raised by members of the public.

166/22 Minutes of the Meeting of 14th July and 18th August 2022

RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr L Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr F Bosanquet) that the minutes of 14th July be accepted and signed as a correct and true record. It was further RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr Nielsen and seconded by Cllr S Baggott) that the minutes of 18th August be accepted and signed as a correct and true record.

167/22 Matters arising from the Previous Meeting

i) & ii) Update on roadside and watercourse vegetation and Himalayan Balsam.

Northumberland Estates has confirmed they own the verges and land on the Lonnen ie the U3006 between Broxfield and Rennington and are responsible for its maintenance. They did agree with RPC to cut down the Himalayan Balsam before it set seed along this stretch but did not carry this out in 2022.

Northumbria Water also did not cut down the Himalayan Balsam before it set seed around the pumping station in 2022.

NCC has confirmed they do not own land in connection with the Lonnen and that the Lonnen is a Byway Open to All Traffic (a BOAT) and NCC is responsible for ensuring it is open to traffic at all times.

Councillors and residents will need to act early in 2023 before the Himalayan Balsam sets seed in order to ensure it does not spread further and RPC write to relevant landowners in the spring/early summer to remind them of their responsibilities and monitor that the work is carried out.

Signed Dated

iii) Update on Rennington Churchyard. Cllr Dixon has talked to Rev Alison Hardy who is satisfied with the NCC vegetation maintenance programme in the churchyard. The Church does not have the financial, equipment or personnel resources to carry out additional vegetation management.

168/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan

The NDP working group held its first meeting with Jenny Ludman, Rennington Parish Council's Planning Consultant. From this the working group was charged with identifying local green spaces and non-designated heritage assets i.e not Grade 1 or 2. Meanwhile Jenny Ludman is producing a report of suggested policies to take forward as a basis for the final Plan.

The working group considered a number of local green spaces identified during the questionnaire and public consultation. All of these have already been identified in the Northumberland Local Plan apart from The Avenue in Rock, which is already designated as a public footpath

Cllr Baggott confirmed that applications were made for Technical Support grants for design codes (design criteria future builds), and Housing Needs Assessment. Both grants, which have been awarded, have no monetary value as the work undertaken will be by 3rd party consultants directly employed by central government.

It is hoped that both the design code and housing needs assessment will be completed within 3 months.

Northumberland County Council will need to establish if the Parish requires other assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment, but will not start the work until RPC has produced an outline draft plan. This could mean a delay to the timescale for completion.

The Working Group has opened discussions with significant landowners in the Parish ie the Robertsons (Stamford) and Rock Estate. A meeting has been arranged with NE and other major landowners will also be approached.

169/22 RPC planning application for the five street lights at North Farm to be removed/turned off

RPC has given landowners the requisite 21 days notice of intention to apply for planning permission. The 21 days has expired and RPC will now apply for planning permission.

170/22 Training

The Clerk attended free training on SLCC qualifications.

171/22 Parish Community Resilience and Emergency Plan

i) Update on RPC CREP on Volunteer Team responses and meeting. Forms have been returned to RPC and the Clerk will transfer to a spreadsheet. A

meeting will be called of all respondents to discuss roles, identify gaps, confirm consents to share personal information etc.

ii) & iii) There are two versions of the Plan – the Unrestricted - which is on the website. The Restricted version has personal information (contact details) AGREED that the Clerk, Cllrs Dixon, Green and F Bosanquet will have access to the restricted version for operational reasons. Additional access to the Restricted version to be discussed with members of the Volunteer Team.

172/22 Rennington Village Hall

i) The Lease. The Clerk is waiting for a response to additional questions asked of the solicitor at the National Association of Local Council's in light of the response from Rennington Village Hall Management Committee. The Clerk to write to RVH MC and formally acknowledge their previous letter and offer to meet to discuss any issues.

ii) & iii) Update on Solar Panels and Northern Powergrid Early Applications for Energy Resilience Grant Funding. Cllr Green has spoken to the Chair of RVH MC and passed on details of the grant funding. RVH MC is purchasing a new boiler and will be writing to RPC to request release of the community benefit funds held on RVH's behalf by RPC to set against the cost of the new boiler.

iv) & v) Update on Scarecrow Festival. Cllr F Bosanquet reported that the Festival was very successful and raised much needed funds. Energy costs are however increasing significantly by some £3000 for the next year. RVH is keen to carry out additional fund raising activities and needs additional volunteers to help and would encourage anyone interested to get in contact. Cllr F Bosanquet is working with the MC to set up a new RVH Facebook page.

173/22 Awards for All Grant

i) Update on siting of Noticeboard at Stamford and permissions. NCC has confirmed they do not claim to own the verge at Stamford and, as agreed with the landowner, the noticeboard will be sited to the left of the post box (when facing the post box).

The other two noticeboards will replace the one outside the pub in Rennington and the one inside the bus shelter at Rock. They will be open for community use as well as RPC use.

ii) Update on purchases. The 2 Glasdon benches for the Village Green have been ordered and will arrive in around 4 weeks' time to be installed.

RPC has arranged for Age UK Northumberland to run a SCAMS Awareness Chat/Presentation at Rennington Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd November from 2-3pm. It will cover different types of scams (text, phone, email, internet, doorstep etc). It will be open to all with no booking necessary. AUKN will be giving out packs with door stickers, coaster and booklets about avoiding scams, staying safe and looking after your money.

Signed Dated

174/22 Policies & Procedures

i) The Risk Register has been updated and AGREED as APPROVED (proposed by Cllr F Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr L Bosanquet). It will be reviewed at least annually.

175/22 Communications/Correspondence Received

i) RPC wrote to NCC requesting that two grit bins be replaced – one at the south entrance from B1340 and the entrance to Church Road and the other beyond the junction with the C73. They have not yet been replaced. Councillors to monitor.

ii) RPC has written to the Lead Guardian for the 6 monthly defibrillator report for the October RPC meeting.

iii) An email has been received from a parishioner concerning grass verges in the parish and this will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

iv) NOTING that the Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 2nd October 2022 at 10am at All Saints' Church Rennington.

176/22 County Councillor Reports for August & September

There were no issues raised by RPC in relation to the report.

177/22 Newsletter

The Chair of RPC (and joint editor of the newsletter) left the meeting room for this item.

The joint editors of the Newsletter had requested that RPC review the funding arrangements for the Parish Newsletter in light of the increased costs of printing.

RPC AGREED to continue to fund any shortfall between advertising revenue and printing costs to a maximum of £500 in the financial year 2022-23

178/22 Financial Matters

The Chair rejoined the meeting.

i) The Financial Report and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances as at 31.8.22 was NOTED.

Treasurer's Current Account Balance 31st August 2022	£12,026.52
Business Bank Instant Reserve Account	£8,712.75
Made up of:	
Parish Council Reserves	£6,750.91
Community Benefit monies held for RV Hall	£1,961.84

ii) To approve current payments:

Signed Dated

It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Clerk's Mileage to RPC and return 18.8.22 meeting	
And postponed meeting 8.9.22	£8.10
Payment of Lease to NE for RVH Lease 25/3/22 28/9/22	£425
Adam Clarke Electrical repairs to Defib	£136.56
Rennington Village Hall Hire	£120.00
NCC Insurance	£168.56
Clerk's expenses (printer ink, stationery split 50/50 APC)	£16.18
NALC membership and website fee	£186.07

iii) To consider:

- a) a quotation from Kevin Ogle Gardening Services to install 2 benches on the Village Green was APPROVED up to a maximum of £200.
- b) the purchase of a Wreath for Remembrance Memorial Service on 13th November from Royal British Legion for approx. £20 plus delivery was APPROVED for the service being held at Rennington Church.

iv) Bank Reconciliation by Councillor

Cllr Green had checked the Bank Reconciliations of the two Council bank accounts pursuant to Financial Regulations 2.2 and confirmed in writing that the accounts reconciled.

v) Online Banking

Neither Cllrs Green or Baggott has received any further news from Lloyds bank regarding their applications for online banking.

vi) VAT reclaim update

The third (identical) VAT reclaim was successful and £158.97 has been received.

179/22 Cooption

It was AGREED that Ian Woods be coopted as Parish Councillor (proposed by Cllr Tremlett and seconded by Cllr Nielsen). Clerk to write to him and send the New Councillor Pack and arrange for signature of forms.

180/22 Any Other Urgent Business

None.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 13th October 2022 at Rennington Village Hall.

Future Meeting Dates

8th December 2023

12th January 2023

9th February 2023

9th March 2023

Signed Dated