

Rennington Parish - Annual Parish Meeting 2022
Rennington Village Hall – 7.00 pm, 28th April 2022

Draft Minutes of Meeting

In attendance:

26 members of the public.

5 Parish Councillors - Robert Dixon (Chair); Lalage Bosanquet (Minutes); Fred Bosanquet; Alan Tremlett; Karl Nielsen.

4 Speakers - Rev Alison Hardy (Rennington & Rock Churches); Nigel Fisher (Civil Contingencies Officer, NCC); Adam Ferry (Rock CC); Wendy Pattison Ward County Councillor).

Chair's welcome.

A Parish Meeting is a meeting of the people of the Parish.

Parish Meetings are distinct from meetings of the Parish Council.

- Minutes must be taken and signed by the Chair.
- Any person on the electoral register of the Parish is entitled to speak.
- Except for the Chair, other Councillor's rank the same as members of the public.
- Although we have an agenda for tonight, matters can be added during the meeting.
- Matters discussed should be pertinent to the Parish.
- Parish Council cannot be required to act upon any resolutions brought forward other than to consider the issue at its next Council Meeting (12 May 2022)

Agenda for this evening.

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Thursday 16th May 2019.

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 28th October 2021.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

- None from 16th May 2019.
- From 28th October 2021
 - o Encouraging new volunteers and activities in the Village Hall - RVHMC (LD) to comment
 - o Defibrillator training - planned for May '22
 - o NDP focus on issues important to residents (Chair comment later)
 - o Shared 'community' website - PC have considered but not progressed due to cost considerations.
 - o Engagement with residents - this evening's meeting/agenda is a response.

Annual report by the Chair.

Speakers.

- Representatives from organisations active within the Parish and who seek benefit from community support.
- Council, Church, Community.

Note: Chair of RVHMC in attendance and available to take questions.

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Minutes of Annual Assembly 16.5.22

Proposed: Lalage Bosanquet

Seconded: John Watson

Minutes of Annual Assembly 28.10.21

Proposed: Fred Bosanquet

Seconded: Lawrence Dent

Matters Arising.

RVHMC - there are 2 additional members of the committee.

cPAD (Rennington defibrillator) - public training sessions planned for May 2022.

Neighbourhood Plan - update in Chair's report.

Parish wide Website - considered by RPC and others but not progressed due to cost. Needs stronger dialogue between organisations.

Engagement with residents - current meeting a response to that - speakers from within the parish.

Annual report by Chair.

The Parish Council.

- Represents the Parish in influencing and delivering services meeting local needs that improve the quality and wellbeing of all residents.
- Works with higher authorities in seeking to achieve positive outcomes.
- Council held a total of 11 full council meetings, and 2 EGM during the report period, one of which was via ZOOM digital platform.
- 7 current Councillors
- 5 elected unopposed at May '21 local election to serve for 4 years.
- 1 elected Councillor resigned for personal reasons in June '21.
- 3 further Councillors have subsequently been co-opted to Council following due democratic process to serve until next local government election due May '25.
- 3 vacancies remain - contact the Parish Clerk if interested.
- Council has 1 employee - Deb Still (the Parish Clerk).
- Thank you to Parish Clerk and Councillors for their work and support.
- Acknowledge Councillors who stood down from Council in May '21 for their subsequent advice and for their service to the Parish over many years.

The work of the Parish Council.

- Council agreed three priorities in shaping its agenda for the year - good governance, community engagement and neighbourhood planning.

Governance and accountability

- AGAR Return (accounts/audit regulations) for 20/21 successfully completed and published - thank you to 'internal auditor' - a qualified accountant resident in parish.
- Adoption of new policy/procedures documents
 - Standing Orders - recognising national standards.
 - Financial Regulations - on-line banking and recognising national standards
 - Reserves Policy
 - Co-option Policy (of Councillors)
 - Register of Assets

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- Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group - terms of reference
- Community Public Access Defibrillator (cPAD) - thank you to cPAD Guardians (volunteers) for inputs.

Finance

- Reports on financial matters as a standing agenda item at all Council Meetings and published.
- On-line banking arrangements completed (Lloyds Bank)
- Budget and Parish Precept Request for 2022/23 adopted and published.
- Parish Clerk is the Responsible Financial Officer

Assets

- Review of assets and adoption of a detailed register completed.
- Lease - RVH
- Bank accounts
- Bench seats, litter/dog waste bins, noticeboards, and IT equipment.

Planning matters

- Rennington North Farm - street lighting
- Land behind Grange Park
- Rock - within village conservation area
- Northumberland Local Plan - planning policy replaces previous policies including Alnwick District

Community engagement.

- Parish wide residents survey - Neighbourhood Development Plan - Aug/Sept'21
- RVH 'drop-in' event - NDP - Sept'21
- Parish wide residents survey - Resilience/Emergency Planning - Jan'22
- PC news delivered quarterly to Parish wide residencies - Rennington and Rock Community News
- Website
- Noticeboards (Rennington and Rock)
- Council Meetings

Neighbourhood Development Planning.

- Standing agenda item at each full council meeting
- Project delayed due to central government (DLUHC) funding indecision.
- April '22 announcement confirming that NDP grant funding will be available for 22/23 financial year.
- Working Party preparing grant applications
- Working Group - 3 Councillors, 3 active volunteers
- 1st Phase consultation produced considerable information and comment from residents
- Key areas for policy development include local amenities and community facilities, environment, housing, transport and economy
- Funding means we can engage a planning consultant to assist drafting of plan policies
- Technical work will be needed to carry out work such as a development design code, housing needs survey, and if need for additional housing is confirmed, a survey to determine best location(s)
- Aim is to complete draft plan by end of April '23

Comment – LD (RVHMC) sought clarification of RPC referring to RVH Lease as a PC asset.

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There were no questions.

Speakers

Nigel Fisher - Community Resilience and Emergency Planning

- Only severe emergencies dealt with mainly flooding and bad weather.
- Communities are looking at how to be more resilient.
- NCC here to help RPC to develop local plan.
- Another six local communities in N'land are wanting to do it.
- Since storm Arwen much more interest.
- NCC were ahead of the game because they had two days warning and were able to have discussions with Northern PowerGrid. Relationships have improved since then. Scottish Power also involved.
- They want to build in their experiences to our local arrangements and help us develop the process. They can give us a framework to help.
- Biggest risks - flooding and severe weather.
- RPC identify risks and NCC can advise and work with us.
- **Northumberland Communities Together** set up during Covid. Evolving into setting up community hubs.
- RVH can be a community hub. Other villages can be the spoke.
- Going to take a lot of work.

Comment - Thanks for mentioning **Northumberland Communities Together** (NCT) (C Cllr Pattison)

Q After storm biggest problem communication - only phone lines working were landlines.

A Lots of communities said they wanted a generator but not always a solution. NCT are going to consider it for community hubs.

Q Why here when many houses have their own generators?

A No list at present for who does have a generator. For those who don't need it any plan has to be tailored to individual communities.

Comment – Chair - 53% of respondents to recent survey requested a rest centre. NF can help with grant getting. Would help with Lottery Fund bid.

Q What would you power generator with?

A Chair: Too much detail we are only at the beginning of the consultation with others regarding rest centre provision.

Rev Alison Hardy – Rennington and Rock Parish Churches

- Area Dean and has an oversight role of parishes for area from Newton by the Sea down the coast to the Coquet valley.
- Especially those with no clergy - only 6 full time clergy.
- Church has changed - paid clergy are reducing.
- Financial difficulties because of decline in church attendance. Attendance has been declining for many years and continues to do so.
- She is here to bring hope and a future and not just manage decline.
- There is a separation of the civil and ecclesiastical parish - would like to see a closer relationship.
- Rock and Rennington churches are historical buildings.
- Not just for people resident in the parish - people who live away still look on this as their parish.

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- Wants to not just draw people into church buildings but to send people out into communities to churches bring love of God.
- Needs injection of hope and confidence not just managing decline - difficult with current state of the world. Church decline is about people dying and young not coming in at the other end. Church has not been able to attract numbers in. The myth of the past having packed churches were the days of forced attendance.
- Rev Alison has responsibility for nine churches with an average congregation of a couple of dozen - funded by the generosity of those who attend, and they each have to generate own funds.
- Reducing number of stipendiary clergy and very traditional congregations don't always have ability or wish for attractional church work such as changing times of services - everyone wants to attend at 10 am on Sundays.
- She has arrived at an exciting time. Being challenged nationally to do things differently. The church is having to re-imagine what we need to do. Matins on Sunday not going to work. She's a realist.
- The real and important work is out in the world. Christians need to be vociferous for justice and peace. Her role is to enable people to have the courage to do that.
- We are a small and fragile counter to the ways of world. We have something to offer for the vulnerable around us.

Comment - Decline in active participation also affects the Village Hall where the work consistently falls on a very small group of volunteers.

Rev A - The churches are desperate for people to take on admin roles. True across everywhere. Always the same people. Her last church, one church in greater Manchester with 17000 in the parish, had the same problem. The shared concern brings us together.

No questions.

Adam Ferry - Rock Cricket Club

- Junior Members - over 100% growth in four years. Play on Saturday's in 3 teams. An under 15s team will commence Summer'22.
- 4 Juniors playing for men's teams.
- Ladies and Girls - 300% increase in last three years. Both hard ball and soft ball. Girls team changed name to red ball. This is the biggest growth area.
- There are 18 Men. Numbers hit by Covid and lost to other sports which opened up after Covid before Cricket, e.g., Golf. Second season playing in division 5. Main aim is survival.
- Members are playing for county.
- Bank balance secure. There is grant money for new projects.
- Have reorganised committee including Health and Safety and Safeguarding roles.
- The pavilion now has mains electricity and water. Thanks to Rock Estate extending supply from the new houses built behind the pitch.
- CASC charity registered so can get gift aid. Loans £6/7000. Has made huge difference.
- Have reduced membership fees to allow multiple junior members from families.
- New nets at top of the ground being installed 11th July - good for current membership but also for improving skills of senior membership.
- Planning to extend entertainment space. Grant applied to get decking and space. Step to pavilion is to be made more accessible. Going to build a bar inside.
- There are plans for an electric scoreboard and hoping to make decisions for a defib at Pavilion.
- Now serving tea coffee and bacon sandwiches on Saturday mornings.
- **Upcoming events**
 - **Jubilee** - Rock Men v over 50s cricket + drinks and BBQ.
 - 27th May - under nines tournament. Parking difficult. Going to have marshals' to try and organise better.

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- July - live music night. Family BBQ open to community Ticketed at gate. 6.30 to 11.
- End of season junior and senior awards event at RVH - to be arranged.
- **Sponsorship/donation opportunities.**
 - Specific grounds sponsors – e.g when nets have been installed.
 - Match ball sponsorship - balls cost £46.
 - Only team not sponsored is under 9's - they Play Kwik Cricket .
 - 100 Club - tickets are available for cost £24 each. 50% goes out in winnings.

Comment - LD (RVHMC). Volunteers the RVH for more cricket club events.

Q How did they do it?

A Lot of work going into young people and families

Comment – LB. Rock Village is very supportive about issues such as car parking.

No further questions.

Wendy Pattison - County Councillor (Longhoughton Ward)

- WP covers 9 parishes.
- Council tax grant of £150 coming in May for people living in A and B banded properties. The Household Support Fund is available for anyone in need and help can be given by contacting Communities Together or Northumberland County Council.
- We are facing a difficult winter. WP is the Council Portfolio Holder for Adult Wellbeing. Covers Supported Housing including Ukrainian Refugees, Voluntary sector, mental health, public health and domestic violence.
- Sees the role as helping people. Worked in Local government for many years.
- Craster - no mobile phone but have finally got a company to erect a mast.
- Newton - some people who have enjoyed the village have offered to give donation for disabled wheelchair. Toilets - council will make space to keep wheelchair and upgrade toilets.
- Sugar Sands - after covid ended there was a flood of visitors. Car parks were closed. Farmer counted 350 cars so have made decision to limit the car parking. Put large rocks in – not very popular.

Q Car Parking - new car parking tariffs are up again in some places to £8 a day. Could there be a discount for local council taxpayers?

WP The Council needs the revenue. Last year NCC got one billion pounds in revenue. Cornwall got 4 billion. There is still a way to go.

No further questions.

Chair - Closing remarks - be aware of everything going on.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Signed:

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