

RENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Deb Still, c/o 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 8th December, 2022 at Rennington Village Hall.

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

In attendance: Deb Still (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Wendy Pattison, 3 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7pm.

204/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ian Woods.

205/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs L Bosanquet and F Bosanquet declared a pecuniary interest in respect of items 218/22 a) i) and 218/22 b).

206/22 Public Participation Time

Item 208/22 was moved to this item. P Purdom and T Lomas proposed producing a Newsletter for the Parish. In summary, they would:

- produce 300 professionally printed copies in full colour on four sides of A4 with four issues per year delivered to every household and published on local websites
- short articles (200 to 500 words) accompanied by images
- no advertising
- £500 per annum ex VAT at current prices
- contributors from all sections of the Community such as RPC, RVHMC, Churches, Rock Cricket Club, other clubs with links in the Parish, the Horseshoes re events, Dates for the Diary, Useful contacts, articles of interest eg family wildlife, birds, walks, gardening etc
- editorial control
- paid for by the Parish Council.

207/22 Minutes of the Meeting of 13th October 2022

RESOLVED (proposed by Cllr Baggott and seconded by Cllr Green) that the minutes of 13th October be accepted and signed as a correct and true record.

208/22 Proposal for Rennington Parish Newsletter

A brief presentation from P Purdom & T Lomas was given at item 206/22.

209/22 Matters arising from previous meeting

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It was decided that the two benches that were formerly on the Village Green be collected by Rock Estates, and they will repair and restore them and place them in public places in Rock.

210/22 Cooption

i) & ii) It was AGREED that Andy Sisson be co-opted as a Parish Councillor (proposed by Cllr L Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr Green). Cllr Sisson's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was RECEIVED.

211/22 Neighbourhood Development Plan

A written update for December 2022 was circulated and published on the RPC website. It was AGREED that a speaker would be invited to a future meeting to address the Council on the subject of 'affordable, social and low-cost housing' in order to assist members with issues and definitions.

212/22 RPC planning application for North Farm to remove/turn off the five street lights

NCC Highways has invited the applicant to withdraw the application to allow negotiations. Previous objections by RPC and negotiations between the Developer and NCC following complaints had not succeeded in achieving satisfactory outcomes. It was AGREED that the application would not be withdrawn and a response to Highways would be posted on the Planning Portal. County Cllr Pattison confirmed that she had requested that the Planning Authority 'call in' the application for decision at the Area Council meeting and that she would also write to the Director of Planning with the same request.

213/22 RPC Communications & Engagement Strategy

A draft strategy was circulated by Cllr Baggott in advance and Cllr Dixon confirmed that he was also in the process of drafting a strategy. It was AGREED that a working group of Cllrs Dixon, Green and Sisson would bring an updated strategy proposal for discussion to a future meeting.

214/22 Parish Community Resilience and Emergency Plan

i) Update on training of volunteer team.

Cllr Green reported back on the successful training session with the new CREP volunteer team that was attended by Nigel Fisher, NCC Civil Contingencies Officer who gave a very helpful overview. It was agreed that volunteers on the team would be issued with their own equipment: high-viz tabard, lanyard and torches where required. The volunteer team is made up of around 26 volunteers and will cover the entire geographical area of the Parish.

ii) The wording for the CREP card to be delivered to each household was AGREED. The CBS World quote was APPROVED for payment (noting that the CREP card may increase in price by a small margin due to it now being printed on both sides) in the sum of:

CREP Card £86.47

Xmas Card £96.00

(proposed by Cllr L Bosanquet and seconded by Cllr Tremlett).

215/22 Rennington Village Hall

i) Update on request for advice re lease. The Clerk confirmed that a long-awaited response had been received from NALC on 6th December. The Clerk advised the Council to consider this further advice at their next meeting before making a substantive reply to the letter of July 2022 from the RVHMC. The Council AGREED that a substantive reply would be made to RVHMC without considering the further advice from NALC. The Council wanted to assure the RVHMC of their support for the future and the advice received so far had raised more questions than answers.

ii) Other updates. Cllr Green confirmed that Pickards electricians had provided a quote for Solar Power to the Northern Powergrid grants scheme that was currently being considered.

216/22 Awards for All Grant

The three noticeboards have been delayed by the proposed supplier and the Clerk has required that installation be carried out by the end of January 2023, failing which the Council will purchase elsewhere. The high-viz tabards have been ordered and lanyards and torches will be purchased next.

The Scams Awareness Presentation delivered by Age UK Northumberland on 2nd November was well received and the Chair of Longhoughton Parish Council also attended. It was agreed that another event would be organised after April 2022.

217/22 County Councillor Reports for November and December

Cllr Pattison's reports were circulated in advance and published on the RPC website.

218/22 Planning Matters

a) Applications

i) 22/04279/AGRGDO Notification of Prior Approval for agricultural general store - Rock Midstead.

It was AGREED that RPC submit a response supporting this application (Cllrs F & L Bosanquet not participating in this item).

ii) 22/04025/FUL Detached stone garage with slate roof on site of old stable. (Retrospective) - 2 Rennington Village

It was AGREED that RPC submit a response supporting this application.

iii) 21/00752/FUL Conversion and extension of the existing outbuildings to a single residential unit - land west of 1 Rennington Village

b) Decisions

22/0344/FUL & 15/00653/FUL – change of use from farm building to form a dwelling – Barn 1 Rock South Farm. It was NOTED that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant.

219/22 Financial Matters

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

Treasurer's Current Account Balance (at 30.11.22) **£22,169.30**

Business Bank Instant Reserve Account (at 30.11.22) **£6752.02**

ii) Current payments were agreed:

Clerk's Mileage to RPC and return 8.12.22 **£4.05**

Payment for printing of CREP notice for every household and Xmas Cards were AGREED at item 214/22.

iii) It was AGREED to transfer funds of £10,000 from the Treasurer's Account to the Savings Account.

iv) It was AGREED to increase the Clerk's salary as per contract of employment and nationally agreed increase for scale 8 backdated to 1.4.22.

v) It was AGREED that the Clerk would in future use HMRC Basic to calculate pay and pay tax in future rather than using NCC payroll services thereby saving money.

vi) 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.

vii) Online Banking

Cllr Baggott is submitting a new application for online banking. Cllr Green has decided not to pursue the online banking application.

220/22 Budget

i) Review of Reserves Policy (circulated in advance).

It was AGREED to call an EGM for 5th January 2023 to discuss the Reserves Policy and the draft budget.

ii) Consideration of RPC draft budget for 2023-24. This item deferred to the EGM of 5th January 2023.

It was AGREED (proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Nielsen) that the Newsletter proposal be accepted with one edition in this financial year and four

editions in the financial year 2022-23 at an annual cost of £500 ex VAT. The Council will REVIEW the position in 12 months' time. The Council did not agree with the proposal to increase the budget for the newsletter automatically each 1st January in line with the CPI index but will instead consider within the budget setting process.

221/22 Northumberland Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan (GTTSLP)

NCC has made a 'Call for Sites' following an Accommodation Needs Assessment recommending that the Council makes provision for a number of transit sites to meet the identified needs of gypsies and travellers, and that reserve sites are identified to meet the need for additional permanent pitches, should this materialise. RPC has been invited to put forward for consideration, any land that might have the potential to help meet the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers, particularly for transit sites in the priority areas identified by the needs assessment. The Council does not own land to put forward for consideration.

222/22 Correspondence

A request to support resiting of the grit bin on Church Road/end of Grange Park was received from a resident. The Council AGREED that this is a matter for NCC and the resident should be advised to contact them direct.

223/22 Petanque (French Boules) in Rock

NCC has approached RPC for support in securing funding (Sport England grant) for the provision of a Petanque surface and setting up a new club. It was AGREED that RPC would support grant applications made by NCC (who will draft the applications). Cllr F Bosanquet will liaise with Rock Cricket Club and discuss possible improvements to facilities and accessibility.

224/22 NCC Town, Parish and Community Council Conferences will be held on the following dates and locations from 5:00pm until 7:00 p.m:

Monday 16 January - St James Church Centre, Alnwick
Monday 23 January - Council Chamber, County Hall
Tuesday 24 January - The Mart, Hexham

These events will provide an opportunity for TPCC representatives to speak directly to key officers on a one-to-one basis and to receive updates on current matters as well as discussion on future working together.

It was AGREED that Cllr Dixon and Cllr Sisson would attend. If more spaces are freed up Cllr Green may also attend.

225/22 Training

Cllrs Sisson and F Bosanquet will attend a remote training session by NALC entitled 'An introduction to Parish finance for councillors and clerks' at a cost of £10 each.

226/22 Any Other Business for Information only

Cllr Dixon NOTED that the Council now had its full complement of 10 members. In order to work more efficiently and with a more equal sharing of the workload between members, Cllr Dixon would like councillors to consider where they could play a more active role, for instance in connection with finance, planning, infrastructure (drains, roads, etc.) or environment (footpaths, etc). Councillors could then provide status reports on matters arising in advance of Council Meetings to enable Council to consider and reach informed decisions in timely fashion.

A Vote of Thanks was given to Peter Purdom and Tony Lomas for their newsletter proposal for the community.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Date of Next Meeting – 7pm on 5th January 2023 (venue TBC).

Future Meeting Dates

9th February 2023

9th March 2023