

RENNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of Rennington Parish Council held at 7pm on Thursday 8th June 2023 at Rennington Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Stephen Baggott (Chair), Robert Dixon, Fred Bosanquet, Phil Green, Alan Tremlett, Peter Purdom.

In attendance: Deb Still (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Pattison and 2 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7pm.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

127/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Katie Robertson.

128/23 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Purdom declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 139/23 as editor of Community Talk.

129/23 Public Participation Time

A member of the public referred the Council to their previous agreement to the terms of funding for the Community Talk newsletter.

130/23 Minutes of the Meetings of 3rd May, 11th May 2023 and 31st May 2023

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on 3rd May, 11th May 2023 and 31st May 2023 be AGREED and accepted as true records of the meetings.

The Chair took the opportunity to give a Vote of Thanks to Cllr Lalage Bosanquet for her long service to the Council and wishes her well now she has stepped down. Cllr Sisson was also given a Vote of Thanks for his service to the Council over several months. They both continue to be active for the community in the Parish.

131/23 AGAR Return & End of Year Accounts 2022-23

i) The Annual Internal Audit Report was RECEIVED and NOTED. There were no actions arising from the report.

ii) Annual Governance Statement (AGAR page 4) was APPROVED and AGREED.

Signed:

13th July 2023

iii) The draft annual accounts 2022-23 were APPROVED & AGREED.

iv) The Bank Reconciliation and Explanation of Variances for 2022-23 was APPROVED & AGREED.

v) The AGAR Accounting Statement (AGAR page 5) was APPROVED & AGREED.

132/23 Financial Matters

i) i) The Financial Report and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances at 31st May 2023 were NOTED:

Treasurer's Current Account Balance (at 31.5.23)	£4274.63
Business Bank Instant Reserve Account (at 31.5.23)	£10,488.74

ii) Current payments were APPROVED:

Clerk's Mileage to meetings 31.5.23 & 8.6.23 & 1 ream of paper	£12.85
Clerk's Net Salary for 1 st to 30 th June (due on 30 th June 2023)	£193.00
Internal Auditor's Invoice	£200.00

iii) To REVIEW and AGREE insurance quotations

NCC quote not yet received.

iv) As at 31.3.23 To NOTE the following Debtor:

- HMRC (VAT spent but not yet claimed back of £18.15

and to NOTE the following Creditor:

- HMRC (PAYE not yet paid for Month 12 of 22-23 in the sum of £147.20

v) Bank Reconciliation by Councillor

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

vi) Request for s. 137 Grant from Citizens Advice

The application was AGREED as refused. The Council may consider adopting a Grants Policy at a future meeting.

133/23 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Report back on Councillor Group Meeting 31st May 2023 (see below item 134/23).

134/23 Working Groups Membership and Updates

i) Community Engagement Strategy

It was AGREED that the draft strategy would be reviewed in 6 months' time. Cllr Dixon is interested in being a member of any Working Group in the future.

ii) Community Resilience & Emergency Plan

Signed:

13th July 2023

Cllr Green has resigned from coordinating this group. It was proposed that Cllr Bosanquet and Andy Sisson jointly coordinate the group. It was AGREED that the Chair should approach Andy Sisson to ask if he was willing to take on the role.

iii) Neighbourhood Development Plan

It was AGREED that Cllr Tremlett will Chair the NDP Working Group and Cllrs Baggott and Purdom will attend as Councillors at the meetings. Other councillors may also attend. Cllr Dixon suggested that the Terms of Reference may need revision as would the membership of the Working Group. The Clerk will circulate the notes of the previous meetings to all councillors.

At the last informal meeting of Councillors about the Working Group on 31st May it had been proposed to follow up on the Housing Meeting of the 3rd May with drop-in events, early July, to gather feedback from residents. Events to be held both at Rock Church and Rennington Village Hall (subject to availability). Cllr Baggott had agreed to produce a proposal for structure of the events for discussion at the next Working Group meeting.

135/23 RPC Planning Application 22/03766/VARYCO to remove/turn off the five street lights

The RPC application was due to go before Northumberland County Council's area planning committee on the 18th May but Council Officers pulled the application from discussion in order to have a meeting with representatives of the Parish Council.

Cllrs Baggott and Purdom attended a remote meeting with David Love (Planning), Gavin Barlow (Street Lighting) and Hannah Booker (Highways) on 5th June.

At this meeting various options were discussed. It was agreed that the Council Officers would review what had been installed and come back to the Parish Council with a revised scheme that they would hope would be acceptable to residents by September 2023.

Before making any decision on the revised scheme the Parish Council will consult with residents. If the revised scheme is not acceptable the Parish Council will proceed with the planning application and strongly argue the residents' case to have the new streetlights turned off/removed. A letter to this effect will be hand-delivered to all residents.

136/23 Awards for All Grant

The RVH has obtained a quote for changing the lights in RVH to LED lighting to save energy. Cllr Bosanquet will circulate for discussion at the next RPC meeting.

137/23 County Councillor Report for May

The Council NOTED the report circulated in advance. County Cllr Pattison confirmed that she would also write to NCC about the poor state of the Village Green after the recent NCC grass cutting.

138/23 NCC Local Transport Plans

The Clerk to draft a response including the following three LTPs for consideration at the next RPC meeting:

- 1) Repair and resurface of the C73 from the junction of the B1340 to beyond North Farm
- 2) Installation of a footpath and cycleway between Rock and Rennington
- 3) 40 mph speed limit at Stamford.

139/23 Community Talk

Currently, the Parish Council has agreed (for this financial year) to fund the production of a community newsletter. Apart from content submitted by the Parish Council, editorial control of the newsletter rests with the editors and contributors (see minutes 206/22, 208/22 and 220/22).

A motion was proposed (proposed by Cllr Green and seconded by Cllr Dixon) to

- establish an editorial board to oversee the content of Community Talk, consisting of at least three persons including two parish councillors and
- that the final content of each edition of Community talk be approved by Rennington Parish Council.

There was a brief discussion followed by voting with three votes against the motion; two votes for the motion and one abstention. The motion was not passed.

140/23 Village Maintenance

RPC has had complaints about the state of the Village Green following NCC's last cut. NCC does not collect grass cuttings but it could be left in a tidier state. The Chair to draft a letter for the Clerk to send to NCC. The Chair will also look at options for improving the look of the benches on the green by extending the paving area.

141/23 RPC Noticeboards

AGREED that all commercial advertising will be removed from the noticeboards.

142/23 Rennington Village Hall

Works to the roof and solar panels have been delayed due to the finding of bat droppings and bat surveys are now being undertaken.

143/23 Training

The Clerk to enquire about organising a planning training session for Councillors with Rob Murfin, the NCC Director of Planning.

144/23 Any Other Business for Information Only

None.

Signed:

13th July 2023

145/23 Confidential Matters

The Complaint received about the Council by the member of the public is in the first stages of resolution and has not been referred to the panel.

On an unrelated matter, following the Clerk's resignation, it was AGREED that the Clerk will draft an advert, job description and person specification for the Clerk/RFO post. The Clerk has proposed a three months' notice period in order to provide a proper handover for the next Clerk which was agreed. The Council AGREED to pay the Clerk for all hours worked since April 2023 in addition to the contractual 20hpm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Date of Next Ordinary Business Meeting and Annual General Meeting –
7pm on Thursday 13th July 2023 at Rennington Village Hall.

Future Meeting Dates (all start at 7pm unless stated otherwise)

14th September 2023

12th October 2023

9th November 2023

14th December 2023

11th January 2024

8th February 2024

14th March 2024