

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Rennington Village Hall.

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

**In attendance:** 5 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7pm.

**52/23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Katie Robertson, County Cllr Wendy Pattison.

**53/23 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Dixon & Tremlett declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 78/23 (a) (i).

**54/23 Public Participation Time**

A member of the public reported back on the newsletter that has been delivered to most households in the Parish and is published on the RPC website. The remainder of the newsletters will be delivered by the volunteer team in the next week or so. Feedback has so far been very positive.

Two members of the public spoke about the planning application at 60/23 (a) (i). They stated that they were keen to maintain a Pub in Rennington village as a key asset. They were concerned that the Pub without the restaurant may not be viable, while acknowledging that this was a private matter for the applicant. They asked whether RPC could help and whether it was possible for the Pub to become a community asset.

Cllr Dixon responded that RPC has been approached by other members of the public who are keen to maintain a pub in Rennington. RPC's role in the planning consultation is to make a response to NCC to either Object, Support or be Neutral on the application. Such response will only be considered by NCC as it relates to planning considerations including local and national policies.

Cllr Baggott responded that it could be designated as a Community Asset in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) if accepted and voted on by the community in the NDP referendum. Such designation would make it more difficult to cease being a pub in the future.

**55/23 Minutes of the Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> February be accepted and signed as a correct and true record.

**56/23 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

County Cllr Pattison had written to the Council to reiterate the point that the review of the bus services may not include a bus service to the Parish as requested by RPC.

**60/23** It was AGREED to move the following agenda item forward as four members of the public were attending in respect of this item.

**a) Planning Applications**

**i) 23/00507/FUL** The Horse Shoes Inn Rennington Village Rennington Alnwick A Proposed part conversion of Public House and detached garage to create 2 no. holiday lets.

A brief discussion took place. The Housing Needs Assessment carried out by AECOM of February 2023 (on the RPC website) has estimated that over 20% of dwellings in Rennington comprise holiday let and second homes. This might mean that NCC would apply HOU10 of the Local Northumberland Plan.

Councillors and residents were keen to maintain the viability of the Pub. RPC AGREES that the Clerk will invite the NCC Planning Case Officer to a meeting with Cllrs Baggott and Dixon to further discuss.

**ii) 23/00540/FUL** 4 Grange Park Rennington Northumberland NE66 3QZ. Side extension to existing dwelling.

No objections were raised. It was AGREED that the RPC consultation response would be to SUPPORT the application.

**iii) 23/00456/FUL** 5 Rock Village Rock Northumberland NE66 3SD.

Proposed external boiler and flue to front elevation and replace exterior wooden doors with Composite doors.

No objections were raised. It was AGREED that the RPC consultation response would be NEUTRAL.

**b) Planning Decisions**

Any decisions since drafting the agenda.

**57/23** The Council AGREED to return to the original order of the Agenda.

**Review of Policies & Procedures:**

i) Standing Orders. The Clerk had circulated proposed amendments to the current Standing Orders. Cllr Baggott had it was AGREED that he meet with the Clerk and an agreed document be some queries and brought to the next meeting.

ii) Financial Regulations – AGREED to defer this review to the next meeting.

**58/23 RPC Communications & Engagement Strategy (Draft)**

The Working Group of Cllrs Dixon, Green & Sisson have agreed to hold a themed drop-in for the electorate in May 2023. The theme of 'Working with Water in the Parish' has been selected from issues raised during the public consultation on the Neighbourhood Development Plan where nature and the environment was highlighted as important to many residents. The Working Group will bring a costed proposal to the April meeting for the Council to consider

(including ear-marking some of the A4A Resilience Grant for the hire of the hall and materials).

**59/23 Councillor Roles & Responsibilities**

The paper has been further updated by the Clerk. There are still some gaps and new roles will be added to this working document.

**61/23 Parish Community Resilience & Emergency Plan**

Most of the Volunteer team have received their equipment.

**62/23 Awards for All Grant**

The Clerk has confirmed with the Big Lottery Fund that items can be bought by RPC and retained by other organisations while remaining the property of RPC. Cllr F Bosanquet will check what items would be most useful for the RVH within the budget to support its use as a Safe/Rest Centre in the event of an emergency.

**63/23 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The RPC meeting with a single item on the agenda (Affordable Housing) will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 6.30pm at the Rennington Village Hall. Sarah Brannigan, Senior Planning Officer with the Neighbourhood Planning Team at NCC will attend with two other officers.

The Housing Needs Assessment produced by AECOM has been sent to NCC for their comments.

**64/23 RPC Planning Application 22/03766/VARYCO to remove/turn off the five street lights**

NCC has contacted RPC to advise that they are investigating the potential policy conflict for lighting in, and adjacent to, Dark Skies areas and Highways legislation. They acknowledge that the outcome will have a significant impact on communities throughout Northumberland.

**65/23 Rennington Village Hall**

The Solar Panels will be fitted after the roof timbers have been treated and the loft insulated.

A Coronation Picnic Party will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for which RVH is applying for a grant.

**66/23 Training**

No formal training has been undertaken since the last meeting.

**67/23 Annual Parish Meeting**

RVH has been booked for 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm and the Secretary of Rock Cricket Club will be speaking. Rev Alison Hardy will not be available, but she will provide a written report that can be read on the evening. A representative from RVH has also been invited. Cllr Baggott will give an update on the NDP. Questions and discussion from members of the audience will be encouraged.

**68/23 King Charles' Coronation Weekend**  
 Cllr Sisson has been in contact with NCC to obtain equipment for the Litter Pick in Rennington on 8<sup>th</sup> May for the Big Help Out Day and is drafting a Risk Assessment. Cleaning of benches and signposts around the village of Rennington will also take place. All volunteers to meet at 10am at RVH. No litter pick can be undertaken on roads/roads without pavements due to the high risks of the activity. Northumberland Estates will be sending volunteers to help out on the day and will remove the litter collected on the morning. Cllr Sisson has also requested some new dog bin signage from NCC.

**69/23 Cooption to Casual Vacancy.**  
 NCC has confirmed that the post can be advertised for co-option following the resignation of Cllr Nielsen.

**70/23 Petanque**  
 Cllr F Bosanquet reported that grants of £5,000 have been obtained to date towards the setting up of the Petanque Club (£2500 from NCC's Community Chest and £2500 from Middlemoor Windfarm). Application has also been made to Sport England. The toilets in the Cricket Pavilion may need upgrading although longer term a new Cricket Pavilion is understood to be needed. The Petanque Club want to raise £11,000. Petanque taster sessions will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm and 8pm.

**71/23 County Councillor Reports for February**  
 The written report was circulated in advance. Cllr Dixon noted the 13 dementia friendly affordable bungalows which will be built in Blyth as part of NCC's commitment to increase the availability of housing to meet the needs of residents throughout the County.

**72/23 i) The Financial Report** and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were NOTED:

Treasurer's Current Account Balance (at 28.2.23)	<b>£2,717.05</b>
Business Bank Instant Reserve Account (at 28.2.23)	<b>£16,767.89</b>

**ii) Current payments were APPROVED:**

Clerk's Mileage to RPC and return 9.3.23	<b>£4.05</b>
NDP Invoice Ludman Planning Feb 2023	<b>£3,000</b>
Clerk's Net Salary for 1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March plus backdated nationally agreed increase to April 2022 plus additional hours for managing and administering A4E grant (net of PAYE etc)	<b>£585.24</b>
Rent for RVH to Northumberland Estates Sept 22 – Mar 23	<b>£475</b>
To return balance of NDP Grant by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	<b>£5000</b>
Hire of RVH for RPC Meetings Sept to March 2023	<b>£150</b>
Invoice from Potts for printing of the newsletter	<b>£98.00</b>
<b>Top up for RPC mobile phone</b>	<b>£10.00</b>

**iii) To APPROVE amended payments**

150 Larger magnets purchased (incl p&p) **£78.90**

**iv) To AGREE to transfer funds from the Business Bank Instant Reserve Account to the Treasurer's Current Account** **£6,300**

**v) 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.

**vi) HMRC Basic**

The Clerk has set up the first salary payment for March 2023 and all salary payments will now be paid using Basic.

**73/23 Any Other Business for Information Only**

**i)** Cllr Woods has had to resign as councillor due to work and other commitments which had unexpectedly increased for him and he did not feel able to dedicate the time necessary to the role of Parish Councillor. The required statutory notice has been published and expires on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**ii)** A request for financial support for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the Rock Defibrillator was received after the agenda was published. The Clerk will write to Rock Cricket Club to obtain additional details to bring the proposal to the next meeting.

**74/23 Confidential Matters**

A motion to exclude the public was AGREED due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (staffing). It was APPROVED that the Clerk would be moved up an incremental scale from Scale 8 to Scale 9 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

**Date of Next Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7pm RVH**

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

27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting)

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 (RPC Meeting to discuss Affordable Housing – starts 6.30pm)

11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (and Annual General Meeting)

8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

9<sup>th</sup> November 2023

14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

14<sup>th</sup> March 2024