

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Rennington Village Hall.

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

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

The meeting opened at 7pm.

**80/23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Lalage Bosanquet.

**81/23 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Robertson declared a pecuniary or other interest in item 90/23.

**82/23 Public Participation Time**

A member of the public raised a complaint about the Council's decision making in relation to Planning Application 23/00507/FUL (the Horse Shoes Inn) and the published minutes of the last two meetings that referred to the application. They were particularly concerned that the minutes recorded discussion of the viability of the Pub which was a matter that could only be known by the owners of the Pub. The member of the public agreed to put full details of their complaint in writing and send it to the Parish Clerk for the Council to properly respond.

**83/23 Matters Arising**

The response from NCC about the request for a bus service stopping in the parish – this item was dealt with as item 99/23.

**84/23 Minutes of the Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> March be accepted and signed as a correct and true record (proposed Cllr Tremlett, seconded Cllr F Bosanquet). It was RESOLVED that the minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> March be accepted and signed as a correct and true record (proposed Cllr Baggott, seconded Cllr Green).

**85/23 Policies & Procedures**

i) The amendments to the Standing Orders as circulated were AGREED (proposed Cllr Sisson, seconded Cllr Green).

ii) The amendments to the Financial Regulations as circulated were AGREED with an additional amendment to Financial Regulation 11 (h) to read 'where the value is below £3k and above £250 [delete £100] the Clerk/RFO or RFO shall strive to obtain three estimates' (proposed Cllr Baggott, seconded Cllr F Bosanquet).

**86/23 RPC Communications & Engagement Strategy (Draft)**  
Cllrs Dixon, Sisson and Green are proposing a drop-in meeting for June 2023 (due to expected non availability of RVH during May) and will bring a draft flyer and the process for agreeing the strategy to the next ordinary business meeting of RPC.

**87/23 Planning Matters**

**a) Planning Applications**

**i) 23/00743/FUL** Gull-Ha Rock South Farm Alnwick Northumberland  
Proposed double storey rear extension.  
It was AGREED to express SUPPORT for the application.

**ii) 22/03508/FUL** 3 Rock Moor Farm Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2TG  
Addition of a first-floor bedroom above current single storey kitchen extension and the replacement of an adjacent single storey garage with an attached single storey studio workshop.  
It was AGREED to OBJECT and state that the:

- Flat roof over studio not to be used as a roof terrace, overlooking of neighbour's garden causing a lack of privacy.
- To allow unrestricted access to rear of neighbouring property during the build and once completed.

Also, to NOTE that the proposed floor plans have the removal of the family bathroom to allow access to the new bedroom and ensuite and that the family bathroom is not reinstated elsewhere in the property. The applicant may wish to reconsider this design.

**iii) 23/00729/LBC** 2 North Farm Mews Rennington Northumberland NE66 3QY  
Listed Building Consent for side door to garage, fence and gate enclosure.  
It was AGREED to express SUPPORT for the application, subject to Conservation Officer approval.

**b) Planning Decisions or other issues (for information only)**

It was NOTED that the application 23/00540/FUL 4 Grange Park Rennington has been granted by NCC.

It was NOTED that a letter has been received by a member of the public and circulated to all councillors as requested regarding the content of the minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> March in connection with the application for planning permission 23/00507/FUL for the Horse Shoes Inn.

**88/23 Parish Community Resilience & Emergency Plan**

[County Cllr Wendy Pattison joined the meeting at this point in the agenda].  
Cllr F Bosanquet will set up and be the administrator for the CREP 'Whats App' group to allow for ease of communication between members.

**89/23 Awards for All Grant**

It was AGREED that Cllr Green would ask RVH for a more detailed list of lighting related items that would support the Hall's daily use.

**90/23 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

Cllr Baggott has resigned from Charing and membership of the Working Group. Cllrs Dixon and Green will now lead the Working Group. Cllr Baggott has drawn up a list of priorities and will offer advice on a one-to-one basis as necessary and appropriate.

The unspent Groundwork grant monies (£5,000) have been returned as required. When the new programme for this financial year has been announced, RPC will make an application for a new grant when permitted.

The Planning Consultant is moving towards a first draft of the NDP for mid-May. Three calls for sites have been received from landowners.

The Flyer for the public RPC meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May has been agreed at a cost of £35 from a local printer.

**96/23 County Councillor Report for March**

It was AGREED to move this item up the agenda as County Cllr Pattison had to leave the meeting. County Cllr Pattison had sent a written report in advance that had been circulated. She also noted that Barclay's Bank is closing its Alnwick Branch in July 2023 and that NEED Ltd in Alnwick has obtained some additional funding for a community bus service along similar lines to the Pingo on-demand bus service in Berwickshire. The Duchess's Community High School in Alnwick is near the end of the consultation period to apply for Academy Status.

[County Cllr Pattison left the meeting after this item].

**91/23 RPC Planning Application 22/03766/VARYCO to remove/turn off the five street lights around the North Farm Mews Development**

The North Northumberland Area Council will be considering this application on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was AGREED that prior to that meeting, the Clerk would write to the Highways Department, copying in appropriate planning officers, to invite appropriate Highways officers to a meeting with Cllrs Dixon and Baggott to clarify the legislation/policies that are being relied upon by the Highways Department.

**92/23 Rennington Village Hall**

The loft insulation and works to the roof will necessitate the Hall closing for around 4 weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**93/23 Training**

The Clerk joined a free HMRC Webinar on the end of year reporting requirements using HMRC Basic software.

- 94/23 Rennington Defibrillator**  
The Guardian's 6 monthly report has been NOTED.
- 95/23 Rock Defibrillator**  
It was AGREED in principle that the Council would fund the maintenance of the Defibrillator on an annual basis subject to agreement at the May 2023 meeting for a virement from an existing budget head.
- 96/23** [County Councillor Report for March was moved up the agenda to be considered after item 90/23].
- 97/23 i) The Financial Report** and update of Lloyds Bank Account balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 were NOTED:

Treasurer's Current Account Balance (at 31.3.23)	<b>£1442.74</b>
Business Bank Instant Reserve Account (at 31.3.23)	<b>£10,475.79</b>

**ii) Current payments were APPROVED:**

Clerk's Mileage to RPC and return 13.4.23	<b>£4.05</b>
Clerk's Net Salary for 1 <sup>st</sup> to 30th April (net of PAYE)	<b>£164.02</b>
To purchase 2 x SP1 iPADS for Rennington Defib (ex VAT)	<b>£59.95</b>
HMRC PAYE for last quarter of 2022-23	<b>£147.20</b>
Flyer for NDP meeting from CBS	<b>£35.00</b>

**iii)** To NOTE there is an outstanding creditor (HMRC) for PAYE in the sum of £147.20.

**iv)** The asset register was REVIEWED and AGREED.

**v)** It was NOTED that the insurance quote from NCC has not yet been received. The Clerk will obtain a quote from a second insurance company for comparison purposes.

**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) HMRC Basic**

There were issues setting up due to having to wait for an activation code, but the year-end submission was made.

- 98/23 Co-option to two Casual Vacancies**  
 i) It was AGREED that Peter Purdom be co-opted as a Parish Councillor (proposed by Cllr Baggott and seconded by Cllr Sisson).  
 ii) Cllr Purdom’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office was RECEIVED.
- 99/23 Any Other Business for Information Only**  
 The response from NCC about the request for a bus service stopping in the parish at item 83/23 was dealt with under this item. It was AGREED to support any initiatives for new funding.
- 100/23 Confidential Matters**  
 A motion to exclude the public was AGREED due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed (staffing). The Clerk was offered an increase in hours from 17hpm to 20hpm and agreed to consider the offer.
- The Meeting closed at 9pm.  
**Date of Next Meeting** – 3rd May 2023 (RPC Meeting to discuss Affordable Housing – starts 6.30pm)  
 Next Ordinary Business Meeting 11th May 2023 (and Annual General Meeting)
- Future Meeting Dates** (all start at 7pm unless stated otherwise)  
 8th June 2023  
 13th July 2023  
 14th September 2023  
 12th October 2023  
 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
 14th December 2023  
 11th January 2024  
 8th February 2024  
 14th March 2024