

ALLONBY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2020 IN ALLONBY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30P.M.

PRESENT: Mr R Hart (Chairman), Mr G Browes, Mr J Hanley, Mr A Jones, Mr A Barnard, Mrs N Wingfield, Mrs P Jones, Councillor A J Markley

APOLOGIES: None

ALSO PRESENT: 1 member of the public (Mr M Gerrish)

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION: None
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION: N/A

MINUTES: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st January 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Mr Browes reported that he had been in touch with David Jeffries regarding a new laptop for the Clerk. Unfortunately, Mr Jeffries was away in New Zealand and would therefore purchase the laptop on his return.

POLICE REPORT: A report had not been received. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been unable to contact the current PCSO with the email that she had and would have to contact either Mrs Bradley to reconfirm the address or Peter Crome.

Action: Clerk

TOILETS & CLEANING REGIME FOR 2020: This item would be held over until the next meeting as the contract for the refurbishment of the toilet block was currently out to tender. Mr Hart reported that he was yet to see the job spec for it. Mr Hanley reported that he was aware that it needed a new roof and new doors but was not sure what other work was required.

PLAYGROUND: Mr Browes reported that he had laid mole hill repellent down in the playground. He would wait and see if this did the trick. If mole traps were needed, we would need to contact a mole man.

TRAFFIC SURVEY: Mr Hart had received a response from Amber Sykes who had agreed to attend the next meeting and bring her engineer with her. It was suggested that a notice be put in the ABC to inform villagers if they would like to attend.

Action: RH

RAILINGS AT WEST END GREEN: Simon Ringrose was to have a look at the railings. Mr Hart reported that he had not received any news as yet.

GRASS CUTTING: Mrs Wingfield distributed a map of grass cutting areas and outlined her proposals for the scheduling of grass cutting, particularly in those areas(outlined in black) that would benefit environmentally only being cut twice a year. She suggested that if the parish got involved in the 'Get Cumbria Buzzing' project not only would we save money but there would be an opportunity for the school to become involved with an outdoor science approach. Bench area surrounds, road edges and edges by Twentymans would be cut but only one side of the cycle path would be cut – the other side would be left. Mrs Wingfield explained that we would have to enter into a 3-year long term plan with the project. She would cost out the proposal going forward and bring costs to the next meeting. There would be an element of interpretation for the site, information leaflets for the public and potentially an information panel. Mrs Wingfield would also write an article for the ABC explaining the potential grass cutting scenario to readers and why certain areas were not being cut as frequently and also giving some information about the 'Get Buzzing' project.

Action: NW

Mrs Jones asked if we could still obtain the history board as discussed with Sustrans some while ago. Mrs Wingfield said that she would speak to Sustrans about this.

Action: NW

At this point in the meeting Mr Hart asked Councillor Markley if he had anything that he wished to report. He informed the meeting that he had been interviewed for Border News regarding the road at Dubmill which would be on the news the following evening. Questions need to be asked at Allerdale Council meeting as this was now a great concern, particularly for Health and Safety. He didn't know what the outcome would be but felt confident that the County Council would want to protect its asset i.e. the highway. He also reported that at the last meeting he had attended there had been a discussion regarding the County budget and also told Councillors' present that the extension of the Cycle track from Allonby to Silloth was going ahead.

V.E. DAY: This was taking place on the 8th May. Councillor Markley informed the meeting that Silloth was hoping to have an aerial display by the Paratroopers and it would be good if we did decide to go ahead with a celebration, to co-ordinate events. Mrs Wingfield suggested that we could get the Colourful North from Carlisle to perhaps do a mural on the toilet block with the help of local children and people. Mr Barnard would mention the day at the next Community Forum meeting to see if anyone had any ideas. The Clerk suggested that we could perhaps hold an afternoon tea in the village hall with a quiz. All Councillors' present felt that it would be nice to do something to mark the occasion.

Action: AB/All Councillors

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter and leaflet had been received from a member of the public from Cocker mouth who was a volunteer for Sustrans and the Wildlife Trust. She wished to bring to Councilors' attention the importance of grass verges and wildflowers to the environment and wildlife.

FINANCE: Invoices from N Power @ £94.62 and the Clerk @ £116.86. Income tax had also been paid to HMRC for £15.60.

Mr Hart reported that NPower had informed the Clerk that we had been out of contract since 2017 and therefore were paying the higher rate of administration and electricity supply. A competitive lower rate had been offered but it was felt that we should explore other suppliers before we go ahead. Mr Gerish suggested Octopus Energy who had a very good reputation and a good 'green' rating.

Action:Clerk

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES: Mr Barnard reported that we were still awaiting suitable weather for the re-painting of the bus shelters. The Community Forum were planning a craft and strawberry tea day in June. He also reported that he had received a letter from a concerned resident regarding the potholes on the stretch of road past the Codfather going up to the cycle path. The road was Allerdale's responsibility but was an unadopted road. A letter should be sent to Dave Brydon and the Leader of Allerdale informing them of the villagers' concerns. The road was access to the recycling centre and the toilet block and in that respect was very important. It was also important access for visitors and those with disabilities who were numerous, particularly in the holiday season.

Action:RH

PLANNING: None. The Clerk had informed Allerdale that any planning applications should now be sent to her and had furnished them with her email address.

A.O.B. – Mrs Jones informed the meeting that sadly Peter Haywood had passed away at home after a short stay in hospital.

Mr Barnard informed the meeting that with Art-Ex in July the village hall would not be available for a meeting. It was suggested that from April we meet bi-monthly i.e. April/June/August etc.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Grass Cutting, Cleaning regime for toilet block, West End Green railings.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 17th March at 7.30p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.20p.m.