

Minutes of Allonby Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th January via Zoom.

Attendance: Mr R Hart (Chair), Mr A Barnard, Mr G Browes, Mr A Jones, Mrs P Jones, Mr J Hanley, Councillor Anthony Markley

2 members of the public were present – Ms Susan Anderson, Mr Frank Fleming

Clerk: Mrs M Walker

Apologies for absence: Mrs N Wingfield

Requests for dispensation – none

Declaration of interests – none

To authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th November 2020 via Zoom – the minutes were agreed by full Council.

Matters arising –

Potholes – Mr Hanley re-iterated a message that had been sent to him from Mrs Wingfield who had received a response from Jo Broomfield at Allerdale that the resurfacing from Allonby to Blue Dial may take longer than they first thought because they were still waiting for some third party land owners to sign up. They would not know until all the work was completed on the cycle path how much funding was still available so they could not commit to work on the potholes as yet. Councillor Markley asked if we knew about the back fill from the pumping station at Dubmill? The cycle track was meant to go over the pumping station but nothing had been heard from the Environment Agency so that deal had been reneged upon. Councillor Markley had put in a letter to County as the part of road from the Edderside Road turn to Dubmill was unsafe anyway due to erosion. He assumed that the part of cycle path that was to be there, would now be on the road. He also informed the meeting of the following:-

- that the 16,000 tonne of stone for Crosscanonby road end had been out to tender and now been allocated, so they hoped to start work on that by March.
- There was also interest in the toilet block, which Mr Hanley knew about.
- Local Government Reform was still in hand.
- County Council elections were due in May.

Councillor Markley then left the meeting after Mr Hart promised to update him on any other issues that arose.

Mr Browes reported that he had received 3 email responses to our request for views on what villagers thought about the Council tackling the potholes themselves. He had posted on Allonby News, the Parish Council FB page and the website asking for people's opinions. Two of the responses were people complaining about the severity of the potholes. It was agreed that as the response was limited, people were obviously happy for the Council to go ahead and hopefully sort the problem out. Mr Hart suggested that we get a couple of quotes before proceeding. The Clerk had recently received a flyer from a father and son team 'Stainburn Groundworks and drainage contractors' who completed this kind of work. Mr Browes agreed to contact them and Simon Ringrose to see if they were interested/able and to quote us for the job.

Website – Mr Hanley had been in touch with a contact that he had -Value Web Design of Silloth.

He felt that they would work out quite a bit cheaper than our current contractor and would therefore save us money in the long run. The Clerk wondered whether we had a contract with our current provider as she had not seen one and also that there might be a notice period that we might have to give. Mr Hart said that he was sure that there was and that he would look to see if he could find the original. We could not really proceed until we knew where we stood with the current provider. Mr Hanley had circulated indicative costs and examples of the potential new providers work on other web sites for Councillors to see.

Bank Account – The Clerk had emailed Councillors regarding the potential to change banks from the HSBC to the Cumberland due to a poor service and lack of local branches. All Councillors agreed to the change. The Clerk would also speak to the Cumberland about internet banking as Councillor Alan Jones was concerned about accountability, particularly with reference to transfers of money.

Bollards on Cyclepath – Councillor Hanley had a price for the bollards from Screwfix which was £34.99 each, plus approx. £5.00 per bollard for fixings. Councillor Hart suggested that he contact Allerdale first, just to make sure that they would be happy with us doing this. Councillor Hanley said that the bollards were lockable and the keys would be passed on to the personnel from Allerdale who empty the bins along the cyclepath. Either himself, or Simon Ringrose would be able to install the bollards.

Signage on West Croft Farm Close – Councillor Hart had received an email back from Allerdale who said that the responsibility for a road end sign lay with the residents/and or builder. The residents had initially been promised the formation of a resident's association, with a nominal fee of £100 paid per year per resident for maintenance. This had never happened as both the solicitor and the builder prevaricated over it. Councillor Hart offered to go back to Allerdale to see if this resident's association was mentioned in the initial application process, but he did not hold out much hope.

Police Report – nothing to report, other than Covid news.

Grass Cutting – as Councillor Wingfield was not present, and due to the current lockdown, it was felt that nothing could be discussed at present.

Street Lighting – nothing to report although there was a three-tier meeting tomorrow which Councillor Hart was attending and would report back to the Council if there was any news. However, as far as he was aware the item was postponed indefinitely.

Correspondence – 2 emails from MP Mark Jenkinson asking for our meeting details and also extending an invitation to speak to us about Planning Reform. After some discussion, it was agreed that we should invite him to our next meeting.

Email sent to all Councillors regarding training opportunities from CALC.

Reports from Committees – nothing to report as Committees had not been meeting.

Finance – The Clerk shared a document that showed all payments that had been made since the last meeting. Total paid out - ££792.85 She reported that Npower had changed to Eon Next and that the bill just received was fairly minimal. Councillor Hart requested that a letter of thanks be sent to George Proud to acknowledge the donation to Christmas Tree from Friends of Allonby Green. Balances 7/1/2021 c/a £7,688.72 Business Money Manager £20,189.47.

Update on situation regarding Beck – Councillor Barnard had been speaking with John Dickenson from the Environment Agency in Abbeytown. Councillor Barnard put two questions to Mr Dickenson that residents had been asking. The first question was why the beck had not been dredged out in 2020 and the second

was is it their intention to cut down just one side of the beck in future and alternate. In answer to the first question, apparently the beck had been surveyed and it was felt that last year, it was not necessary to dredge. In answer to the second question they had always only cut down one side of the beck and as far as alternating sides every year they would consider that later on in the year. The flow of the beck was on a watching brief for them and will be surveyed regularly during the different tide cycles. Councillor Hart was bringing up the B5300 at the 3 tier meeting tomorrow and the flow of the beck which was affecting the state of the banks. Apparently, a similar problem was being seen at Beckfoot. Councillor Barnard reported that a number of residents at his end of the village – including ‘Greenbank’ and cottages alongside had experienced a great deal more flooding in 2020 than previously. John Dickenson had told Councillor Barnard, that property and its safety was their priority over wildlife and habitats.

Councillor Alan Jones wondered what was going to happen with regard to repairs to the bridge in the middle of the village which had been hit three times in the last two years, due to drivers skidding on black ice. Councillor Hart had requested that the grit bin be filled over ten days ago which still had not happened. He wondered whether we needed more signage?

Items for next agenda: Potholes, Website, Bollards on cycle track, the beck, the state of the bridge and the toilet block re rendering.

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 16th March at 7.30p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20p.m.