

DRAFT

Minutes of Allonby Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th June via Zoom.

Attendance: Mr Roger Hart, Mr Alan Jones, Mrs Pam Jones, Mr Jamie Hanley, Mr Guy Browes, Mrs Nikki Wingfield

Apologies: Mr Andy Barnard, Mr John Kendall

Also Present: 3 members of the public (Mrs Donna Pim, Ms Sue Anderson, Mr Frank Fleming)

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION: None

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: None

MINUTES: Mr Hart commented that the agenda incorrectly stated the date of the 17th March, this should actually read the 18th February. The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th February were agreed and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Mrs Wingfield reported that there had been a number of issues recently with members of the public driving along the cycle path, causing issues with pedestrians and cyclists. After some discussion with Mr Hanley, she had emailed Sustrans to see if it would be possible for the Parish Council to install dropable bollards or something similar to prevent this happening. She explained that this would have to be run past Allerdale and Cumbria County Council as it was their land. Mr Hart had also received a complaint off a resident who had seen first-hand, motorists exiting at the corner of south green rather than via the car park. Mr Jones asked if bollards were installed, what would happen when the litter picker needed access to drive along in his car to empty the bins? Mrs Wingfield suggested that he could have a key to enable him to drop the bollards when necessary. She reminded councillors that motorists were actually committing a driving offence by driving on the cycle path in the first place.

Mrs Jones reported two inaccuracies with the minutes

2nd paragraph under heading 'Grass Cutting' this should now read:-

'Mrs Jones asked if there was still a possibility to have the history board as discussed with Sustrans some while ago'.

Under A.O.B. minute should now read:-

Mrs Jones informed the meeting that sadly Peter Haywood had passed away at home, having spent a short time previously in hospital.

POLICE REPORT : The Clerk informed the meeting that this was now in the form of a weekly report, covering the different district Councils, and not specific communities. At the moment the report was all Covid 19 related and talked about overnight camping checks, track and trace scammers and domestic abuse surgeries via FB.

TOILETS & CLEANING REGIME2020: This was something that had already been discussed at length at it was felt at this time that the Council could not operate a full cleaning service that would keep members of the public safe. Mr Hart reported that this would require regular and deep cleaning and as a Council, we simply did not have the means to operate at such a high level. Advice from NALC had been circulated to all Councillors by Mr Hart. Mr Browes felt that it was too early in the Covid timeline to make any decisions and that we should keep both the playground and the toilets shut. The pressure

would come when we were given the green light by Government to re-open the playground. Mr Hart reported that the virus can remain on metal, of which there was a great deal in the playground, for 72hours.

Mr Hanley felt that we should have seen the spec sheet before the building work on the toilet block took place as there were some issues, specifically the type of rendering that the contractors had used which was very expensive and he knew was liable to crack within a few years. Mr Hart felt that as the building was owned by the Parish Council and Allerdale had undertaken the cost of this work on our behalf, we did not have recourse on the matter. At least the building was now dry and usable. We were £3,500 better off as a result of not undertaking some of the work ourselves in 2019. The render was silicone based which meant that nothing would grip onto it and Mrs Jones reflected that at least it was vandal proof, however, sadly we would not be able to create a mural on the wall or anything of that nature. Mrs Wingfield asked if we would get some kind of guarantees for the work undertaken? Mr Hart responded that he expected that would be the case and that he would follow this matter up with Allerdale.

RAILINGS AT WEST END GREEN: There was nothing to report on this matter as Mr Hart had been unable to contact the handyman. Mr Browes reported that the handyman was now back working as he had completed work at school during lockdown.

GRASS CUTTING: Mr Hart gave apologies to Mrs Wingfield as there had been some adverse comments with regard to the Councils plans regarding the grass cutting regime in response to her piece on social media. He felt that the plans were reasonable to take forward and that they were acceptable to the Council and the A.O.N.B. It was discussed and decided that more details of the plan including clear maps etc. would be placed on FB so that members of the community were much clearer of what the plan entailed, and would also give them the opportunity to speak at the next Council meeting if they so wished. Mrs Wingfield reported that after discussion with Andrew Sim, she had worked out that by leaving the proposed 'bee meadows' out of the cut, the Council stood to save approximately £300.00 per year. They had also discussed the possibility that four cuts, rather than 5 might be acceptable, saving us a further £550.00. Due to Covid, and our late start, we would not be joining 'Get Cumbria Buzzing' until next year. The scheme had promised free plug plants if the community and school got involved and this was hopefully still the case for next year. Mrs Wingfield had also emailed Anna Pollard from the A.O.N.B regarding possible funding for Interpretation boards. Mr Hart thanked Mrs Wingfield for all her work. Councillors agreed that grass cutting should be on the next agenda.

FOOTLIGHTS: Mr Hart had circulated a report from Allerdale regarding this scheme which would be starting next year. The Council needed to look at the number of footlights that we have, however it seemed that this would cost us in the region of £1,700.00 per year, which would go up year on year. If we were not able to pay these costs, the lights would simply go out. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

SOLWAY CYCLE HIRE: Mr Hart reported that Richard Barnard was wishing to relinquish the business due to other commitments. He had a potential buyer but was wanting the Council to confirm that going forward, the same contract would be applied to any such buyer that would include a clause for both parties able to give a months' notice at any time and also that the rent for 3 months would be waived in the winter. All Councillors agreed with this proposal..

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO COVID 19 AND ISSUES ARISING SINCE LOCKDOWN: The Clerk reported that the Allonby Angels were delivering their last 'Bags of Kindness' on the 22nd of June and she felt that the needs of those that had been receiving meals and bags etc. was significantly diminished. There was approximately £1,200 left in the budget which would be held in the Parish Council account until such time as it may be needed again. The Angels had been awarded a grant of £500.00 from Cumbria Community Foundation for which they were extremely grateful. Mr Hart informed the meeting that there was a new need arising within families with young children whose parents had been made redundant. It was agreed that we should monitor this situation. At present we were not aware of any family in the village that was in this situation.

FILMING OF THE BALLAD OF LUCY SANDS: Mrs Jones reported that she had spoken to the company involved in the filming and everything seemed very well organised and all insurances were in place. She had also spoken to residents where the filming was taking place and they had no issues. The Clerk wondered whether they were blocking off access to the square? Apparently, this was not a Council matter but rather an issue for the Police.

FINANCE: The Clerk reported on the invoices that had been passed for payment in June, namely Npower and Clerks Salary, totalling £145.29. She agreed to copy all Councillors with details of invoices that had been passed for payment in March, April and May.

Mr Hart asked whether Councillors would be happy to donate £100.00 to Friends of Allonby Green towards plants for the village planters. Plants had become more expensive due to lockdown as many plants had been destroyed when nurseries were not open. Councillors agreed to this gesture.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Other than those already minuted, the Clerk asked that the audited accounts be added to the next agenda, as they had to be prepared by the end of July, although not in the public domain until Nov/Dec. She had also already contacted Wendy Jameson regarding this matter.

Items 16 – Correspondence, 18 – Reports from Committees and 19 – Planning had been omitted due to time running short on Zoom. The Clerk confirmed there was no correspondence or planning matters to deal with.

Mr Jones reported that he was missing the mirror on the wall at the West Newton road end and hoped that it could be re-instated soon if a suitable place could be found for it.

Mrs Jones reported that churches could re-open from the 5th of July and that Christchurch Allonby would hopefully re-open for private worship only to begin with. She had also heard from Peter at Cedeco who did not feel that we would need to purchase another strimmer this year for the churchyard.

Mr Browes asked whether Councillors would stop using messenger as a messaging app and go back to using email instead. After some discussion it was felt that messenger or what's app were much more immediate and more likely to get a response than email.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 21st July at 7.30p.m. Mr Hart would report back after the next CALC meeting this Saturday with regard to whether we would have to continue with Zoom or could re-start face to face meetings in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30p.m.