

Minutes of Allonby Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th April 2021 via Zoom.

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

3 members of the public were present – Ms Susan Anderson, Mr Frank Fleming, Ms Karen Yarney

Clerk: Mrs M Walker

Apologies for absence: Mr Andy Barnard, Mrs N Wingfield, Councillor Tony Markley, Councillor Jim Lister

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 March 2021 via Zoom – the minutes were agreed by full Council.

Public Participation – Susan Anderson wished to clarify that this was the time for the public to participate rather than throughout the course of the meeting. The Chair agreed that formally this was the time for the public to speak but because we had been conducting meetings via Zoom he had wished to be a bit more flexible. Mr Frank Fleming expressed his thanks for the work that had been done on the potholes. He expressed concerns after reading about a number of recent minor acts of vandalism in the village. Councillor Hanley knew that these had been carried out by local children – Councillors would keep a watchful eye. Mr Fleming also suggested turning the locking mechanism of the newly installed bollards inwards out of the direction of the wind, otherwise the salt air could potentially corrode and render the locking mechanism useless. Councillors thought that this was a good idea. Karen Yarney asked if there was any further development on the talk/walk around the village regarding the meadow? Councillor Wingfield was not present but had sent a message via FB to say that she was hoping that the walkaround the village with Anna from the AONB would happen either on the 20th or 21st May and she was just waiting to hear back from her. Once this was finalised, it would be advertised in the ABC and on FB.

Potholes – Simon Ringrose was ploughing ahead with the filling of the potholes and to date the bill submitted from him was just over £900.00 – 45% of which was for materials. The filling of the potholes was being done as and when he had the time but we were to let him know if there were any potholes that he had missed. Councillors were happy that the work had commenced on this. He had already done up at the bungalows past the church, in front of Boustead House and had got up nearly as far as Moss Side.

Bollards on Cycle Track – Councillor Hanley had passed on a set of keys for them to the bin man and still had two spare sets. All of the bollards had come loose and this was due to the fact that when they were fixed in, fixings were used for if they were being fixed into concrete and not tarmac. Councillor Hanley still had the fixings for the tarmac. He needed a particular kind of drill bit to be able to fix these which he didn't have. He would ask Simon Ringrose if he had one before we bought one. County still needed two sets of keys. Councillor Hanley agreed to try and get this sorted.

Beck – The Chair reported that Councillor Barnard had been in touch with the Environment Agency by phone to let them know that someone had built a dam at the far end of the beck. This had immediately been dealt with the following day. He also mentioned that they were aware of the problems that we were having with the beck at the moment and that this was currently under investigation.

Toilet Block re-rendering – The Chairman reported that the toilet block had now been re-rendered and it was just a case of waiting to see if the new rendering was fit for purpose. Councillor Alan Jones reported that he had witnessed two cyclist couples needing to access the toilet but as it was during the week, it was not open. He found this extremely embarrassing and felt that as needing to use a toilet was a basic human right that perhaps we needed to open seven days a week until further restrictions were lifted on May 17th. The Councillors had a discussion and as a result it was agreed that the toilet should be open seven days a week and reviewed at each Council meeting. The Chairman agreed to contact Louise to see if she was able and willing to do this. The Clerk reported that she had received an angry message on her answer phone from a visitor expressing his disgust that the toilet had not been open when he had been visiting. She would phone him back tomorrow and inform him of the reasons why the toilet block had not been open, but also re-assure him that hopefully the toilet would be open the next time that he visited.

Police Report – nothing other than the usual Covid updates which all Councillors are aware of.

Grass Cutting – Councillor Hanley read out a brief report that Councillor Wingfield had sent regarding the cycle path – the grass cutting/meadow having already been covered. The cycle path resurface from Blue Dial to Allonby has been held up as the private owner deeds are missing and 1 was in probate. The County Council will not let Allerdale proceed without the correct paperwork. Funding has been extended and they now have one of the two permissions needed so they are hoping that it will happen soon. They were also hoping to find a solution on the resurfacing of the car park as it wasn't registered.

Correspondence – the Clerk had received an email from Steven Boucher, the Environmental Health Officer at Allerdale, inviting a member of the Council to a Teams meeting to discuss the West End Green toilets and Allonby Bathing water. The Chairman agreed to attend.

The Clerk had received correspondence from CALC inviting us to renew our membership to them and NALC at a cost of £155.05. Members agreed and thought that this was good value.

The Chair had received news via Councillor Barnard that Richard Barnard would be re-starting Solway Cycle Hire in June and therefore we would be receiving rental income from then.

Reports from Committees – nothing to report from Committees. However, the Chair reported that he had a discussion with Janet Wilshaw, Chairperson of the Village Hall and had been told that the Village Hall was due to re-open on the 6th May due to local elections. The hall had been checked over to make sure that covid safe regulations were in place and that they were happy for it to re-open. This would mean that hopefully we would be able to have our May meeting in the village hall.

Councillor Pam Jones reported that the Graveyard Clean Up committee had been up to church and had already filled one skip with rubbish and ivy, but there was still more to clear. Councillor Hanley mentioned that a gentleman who had recently moved into Westwinds had offered to help, he just needed to know as and when the team were going down to work. Councillor Jones asked that perhaps the £100 donation that had been suggested for Church funds, be used by the group to buy a heavy-duty strimmer. Councillors were happy with this idea.

Planning – nothing received.

Finance – Balances 7/4/2021 c/a £7,010.80 Business Money Manager £26,189.97. The Clerk also reported that the hourly rate for Clerks had gone in April 2020 from £9.83 to £10.04. As the Clerk did not realise this until October, she did not change the rate until then.

Items for next agenda: No extra items, other than the standard. Councillor Alan Jones reported that there was a bench more or less opposite Vicarage Fields which was dangerous and damaged at one end and needed to be put out of action. Councillor Hart agreed to put hazard tape or something similar around it until it was either replaced or dealt with.

Date and time of next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 18th May at 7.30p.m. at the Village Hall, unless otherwise notified,

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10p.m.