

Minutes of Allonby Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2020 via Zoom.

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

Members of the Public – Miss Susan Anderson

Clerk: Mrs M Walker

Apologies for absence: Mrs N Wingfield, Mr J Hanley

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had been in touch with Mr Kendall who still wished to be part of the Parish Council, even though he was not able to participate in Zoom meetings due to the lack of electronics and internet in his house. This was duly noted by the Chairman. The Clerk had asked him also to return the Declaration of Office as soon as he was able.

Requests for dispensation – none

Declaration of interests – none

To authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 28th July via Zoom – the minutes were agreed by full Council. Miss Susan Anderson had been omitted from those present at the meeting and this would be amended on the final copy of the minutes.

Matters arising –

To approve the standing orders, financial regulations and Code of Conduct (distributed) – the Chairman suggested approving these on block. Mr Browes mentioned that there were some figures and timings that need inputted such as the length of time that we would give members of the public to speak, maximum length of a meeting etc and similarly some figures that needed filling in on the financial regulations document. The Clerk suggested that she undertake this with the Chairman and then re-circulate the documents. Subject to these items being inputted, the Council approved all three documents.

Police Report – The Clerk reported that the focus was still very much on Covid. The report mentioned Monday's announcement regarding gatherings of no more than 6. There had been 45 new cases reported w/e 4th September, most of them occurring in Barrow. There had also been a few cases reported in schools of staff and pupils. The Police continued to hold their surgeries on Domestic Abuse. Rural communities were to benefit from local policing in towns, so far Appleby and Alston had been mentioned but no towns in our immediate area.

Playground/Toilets Update – nothing to report re playground apart from the need to re-do the signs that were placed on the railings surrounding regarding COVID. The Clerk agreed to do this. The Chair had spoken to Louise regarding the cleaning of the toilets which had now moved to weekends only. However, at October half term the toilet would be open all week and would therefore be cleaned every day. After half term the Chair suggested that the toilets be closed until Easter. The Council agreed to this. Mr Barnard asked the Chair to chase up Stobbarts for the signs, which he agreed to do.

Mr Jones reported that he was disappointed that the IPlayer had been out of action most of the summer particularly as we had spent so much money on it this year. The Chair suspected that it had been switched off at Playdale HQ whilst the company was closed during lockdown. He offered to email them to check that this was the case and if so, ask them to turn it back on. Mr Barnard felt that as we had spent so much on repairs this year, if it did need maintenance, he was loath to commit any more money to it. Ms Anderson said that she had heard it today so it may well have been switched on.

Mrs Jones wondered whether Simon Ringrose could make a new horses head as one of the springies had lost its head! Mr Browes knew someone else (Mr Kewin) who would probably be willing and able to make a replacement. Mrs Jones also reported that the new swing was proving very popular with all ages.

Grass Cutting – The Chair commented that because of the rule of 6 at the moment we would be unable to have the public meeting that we had planned to have at the end of the month/beginning of September. Mrs Jones reported that there were areas that desperately needed cutting such as at the end of Pig in the Bath and that it should be done at this time of year. The Chair offered to speak to Mrs Wingfield when she returned from her holidays.

Railings at West End Green – the Chairman hadn't done anything other than go and have a look at it and it seemed that it was only the metal on the top that was a problem and not the railings themselves. He wondered if this could just be taken off if it was rusting and not of any benefit. He agreed to ask Simon Ringrose to have a look at it.

Footlights – until we were able to have a village walk around en masse to look at all the lights, the Chair felt that there wasn't a great deal that we could do about this. He would ask Dave Bryden for another copy of the lights and where they were situated and re-circulate to all Councillors.

Road end signage – Croft Farm Close

The Clerk had sent a letter to the building contractor Frank Scott asking him what he was doing about a sign and when but had received no reply. Mrs Jones said that the residents of the close were meant to be part of a resident's association that should have been set up initially when the close was completed and that they were all to pay in a £100.00 per year for the upkeep of the close, which could have paid for a sign. The paperwork for this association was still languishing with a solicitor. The residents felt that it was a matter of principle that the sign should have been provided by the contractor but were unsure if this was part of the planning application. The Chair agreed to phone Allerdale planning to try and get some answers.

Correspondence regarding request for Bouncy Castle on the green & 2 x Memorial benches – the request for the Bouncy Castle was a repeat of a request that had been made approximately two years ago. The gentleman involved had been asked for a detailed risk assessment which had not been forthcoming. It was felt, particularly at the moment with COVID, that a Bouncy Castle could not be operated safely enough.

Mr Jones had had a request from Mr Craig Tunstall via Mike Holyoake. Mr Tunstall had restored two traditional children's rides and wanted permission to install them on the green opposite Twentymans. Mr Jones had referred him to Allerdale as they were owners of the land.

The Clerk had received two requests for Memorial benches. After taking advice from the Chair, she had referred both parties to Julian Smith at Allerdale who liases with the Friends of Allonby Green on this matter.

Reports from Committees – nothing to report. However, Mr Browes informed the meeting that the Village Hall Committee had been planning to re-open the Village Hall and had carried out a risk assessment etc. until the rule of 6 had come in which had scuppered the plans to re-open in October. However, Mawbray Hall had re-opened with a low impact exercise class and a Friday cinema. Members felt that this may not be legal and that perhaps the government guidelines had been mis-interpreted.

Mr Barnard reported that the bus shelters were going to be re-painted within the next two weeks by female volunteers from the village after putting a call out on the Allonby News Facebook page. Once this work was completed the artwork that the school children had done at the end of last year would be put into position.

Mrs Jones reported that she had walked the length of the cycle path and could not find the board that she had put together last year that Sustrans had paid for that held information about Allonby and the Shrimp man. She had spoken to Mrs Wingfield who had said that she would contact Sustrans to ask them if they had a map with the location of where they had placed the board.

Planning – Nothing to report

Finance – The Clerk reported the bank balances as at 7th September. The Current Account - £4,370.47 and the Business money Manager £24,188.80. The Clerk had written 8 cheques totalling £747.40 in the period, 2 to Npower, 1 to the auditor Wendy Jameson, 1 to Water Plus, 1 to Louise Richardson, 1 to Simon Ringrose, 1 to M Walker (Clerks salary), and 1 to Roger Hart for cleaning materials.

Items for next agenda

Mrs Jones asked that potholes be put on the agenda again as there were some really large ones in the car park opposite the Surf Bar and also by the playpark. The Chair said that he had raised this issue with Andrew Seekings at Allerdale earlier in the year but then this had been overtaken by lockdown and Covid. He would raise the issue again with Tony Markley and see what could be done.

The Clerk reported that Anne Bradley had asked that the issue of parking down the west newton road also be raised as it had been causing some issues recently for vehicles trying to get past. County had been informed about this previously. Mr Hanley had previously reported that this space had been nominated for household owners on the new estate and that it was in their deeds.

Date and time of next meeting

Now that toilet block was completed, the Council agreed that bi monthly meetings were sufficient particularly during this difficult time. The next meeting therefore was Tuesday November 17th at 7.30p.m. If anything should occur in the meantime that needed urgent attention, an extraordinary meeting would be called.

The meeting closed at 8.05p.m.