

# Whessoe Parish Council

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## MINUTES of the Meeting of Whessoe Parish Council held at Whessoe Parish Hall on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025, at 7.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor D Woodley (Chair)    Councillor F Minay    Councillor T Musson  
Councillor S Goldfinch (Vice-Chair)    Councillor C Stewart  
Borough Councillor R Lawley  
Parish Clerk – B Goldfinch

MINUTE NO.	ITEM	ACTION
65.24	<p><b><u>Introduction</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b></p> <p>Apologies were received from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillor A Blanchard (personal reason) and Councillor S Patterson (holiday). The reasons for their absences were accepted.</li></ul>	
66.24	<p><b><u>Presentation by Aura Power</u></b></p> <p>Chloe Hood, Head of Community Engagement and the Senior Project Manager gave a presentation on the work being carried out to construct the Solar Farm on Burtree Lane.</p> <p>The presentation with questions from those present lasted for 45 minutes.</p> <p>In summary, they confirmed that the work has started and is scheduled to take 20 weeks. There will be up to 28 deliveries per day (56 two-way movements) during the first four weeks and then tailing off afterwards. The main disruption will be when they dig up Burtree Lane to lay the cable connection to the electricity substation. They hope to keep the road open and control traffic flow using traffic lights.</p> <p>They accept that there may be issues with noise and traffic movements and asked the Council to let them know of any complaints.</p> <p>There is a community fund that will become available in 2026, and Aura Power will consult with the Council about how this is to be distributed nearer the time.</p>	
67.24	<p><b><u>Public Participation</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>	

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68.24	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Minay declared an interest in the Charities item under the Social Committee update at minute number 80.24 below.</p>	
69.24	<p><b><u>Minutes of the Meeting of Whessoe Parish Council – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025</u></b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting of Whessoe Parish Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were presented.</p> <p>The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Meeting of Whessoe Parish Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and signed.</p> <p><b><u>Action Points</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing and social media – there had been some issues with Councillors being able to post on the Council’s Facebook page. Councillor Goldfinch had investigated and resolved the problem. All Councillors now have admin access.</li> <li>• All other actions are covered in the Agenda.</li> </ul>	
70.24	<p><b><u>Planning</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25/00190/RM1 – The Council considered this application for reserved matters approval relating to appearance, landscaping, layout, access and scale for the erection of 122 No. dwellings (Use Class C3), local convenience retail/temporary sales office floorspace (Use Class E or F2) and associated access, landscaping and engineering works within Cells E(part of), G and P(part of) of Burtree Garden Village Phase1 attached to planning permission 22/01342/FULE dated 31 January 2025 for Burtree Garden Village Phase 1. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to raise no objections to the proposal.</li> <li>• 25/00238/FUL - The Council considered this application for the installation of a standalone heat pump within the east boundary of 9 Pendeen Grove. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to raise no objections to the proposal.</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk will notify the planning authority accordingly. POST MEETING NOTE: completed 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p> <p><b><u>Planning Applications Log</u></b></p> <p>The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the planning applications log.</p>	
71.24	<p><b><u>Parish Councillor Vacancy</u></b></p> <p>There are currently no vacancies.</p>	

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72.24	<p><b><u>Clerk &amp; Responsible Finance Officer</u></b></p> <p><b>Staffing Committee Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update deferred to May’s meeting.</li></ul>																																																																																													
73.24	<p><b><u>Finance</u></b></p> <p><b>Bank Reconciliation January and February 2025</b> Councillors Patterson and Minay reconciled the bank account against the cashbook on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 respectively.</p> <p><b>Financial/Budget Statement to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b> The Clerk presented the Financial Statement for the period.</p> <p>Receipts totalled <b>£19,809</b> of which £11,880 came from the precept. The Council spent <b>£17,363</b> to the end of the period.</p> <p>The Council noted that water and grounds maintenance were significantly over budget but savings in other areas would mitigate the impact on reserves.</p> <p><b>Payments more than £100 are as follow.</b></p> <table><tr><th>Date Paid</th><th>Transaction Detail</th><th>Total</th><th>Payee Name</th></tr><tr><td>05/04/2024</td><td>Accounting Software Subscription</td><td>£ 230.40</td><td>Rialtas Business Solutions</td></tr><tr><td>07/04/2024</td><td>Internal Audit</td><td>£ 100.00</td><td>Kevin Pearce</td></tr><tr><td>17/04/2024</td><td>Gas March</td><td>£ 167.11</td><td>EDF</td></tr><tr><td>07/05/2024</td><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>£ 1,115.10</td><td>Cleanzone</td></tr><tr><td>07/05/2024</td><td>NALC/CDALC Subscription</td><td>£ 245.26</td><td>CDALC</td></tr><tr><td>17/05/2024</td><td>Insurance</td><td>£ 663.46</td><td>Zurich Municipal</td></tr><tr><td>17/05/2024</td><td>Gas April</td><td>£ 106.19</td><td>EDF</td></tr><tr><td>04/06/2024</td><td>Smoke and Fire Alarms</td><td>£ 234.00</td><td>M H Gorman</td></tr><tr><td>13/06/2024</td><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>£ 391.00</td><td>Cleanzone</td></tr><tr><td>13/06/2024</td><td>Hall Booking Subscription</td><td>£ 265.00</td><td>Hallmaster</td></tr><tr><td>21/06/2024</td><td>Balloonist Entertainer</td><td>£ 165.00</td><td>A P Young</td></tr><tr><td>21/06/2024</td><td>Band for summer event</td><td>£ 320.00</td><td>Will Jackson</td></tr><tr><td>28/06/2024</td><td>PAYE Q1</td><td>£ 388.60</td><td>HMRC</td></tr><tr><td>28/06/2024</td><td>Clerks Salary Q1</td><td>£ 1,554.90</td><td>Clerk</td></tr><tr><td>08/07/2024</td><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>£ 391.00</td><td>Cleanzone</td></tr><tr><td>22/07/2024</td><td>Cleaning May and June</td><td>£ 105.00</td><td>Jean Bowyer</td></tr><tr><td>05/08/2024</td><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>£ 391.00</td><td>Cleanzone</td></tr><tr><td>04/09/2024</td><td>Water Rates</td><td>£ 248.06</td><td>Wave Water</td></tr><tr><td>09/09/2024</td><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>£ 391.00</td><td>Cleanzone</td></tr><tr><td>30/09/2024</td><td>PAYE Q2</td><td>£ 388.60</td><td>HMRC</td></tr><tr><td>30/09/2024</td><td>Clerks Salary Q2</td><td>£ 1,554.90</td><td>Clerk</td></tr><tr><td>02/10/2024</td><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>£ 436.00</td><td>Cleanzone</td></tr></table>	Date Paid	Transaction Detail	Total	Payee Name	05/04/2024	Accounting Software Subscription	£ 230.40	Rialtas Business Solutions	07/04/2024	Internal Audit	£ 100.00	Kevin Pearce	17/04/2024	Gas March	£ 167.11	EDF	07/05/2024	Grounds Maintenance	£ 1,115.10	Cleanzone	07/05/2024	NALC/CDALC Subscription	£ 245.26	CDALC	17/05/2024	Insurance	£ 663.46	Zurich Municipal	17/05/2024	Gas April	£ 106.19	EDF	04/06/2024	Smoke and Fire Alarms	£ 234.00	M H Gorman	13/06/2024	Grounds Maintenance	£ 391.00	Cleanzone	13/06/2024	Hall Booking Subscription	£ 265.00	Hallmaster	21/06/2024	Balloonist Entertainer	£ 165.00	A P Young	21/06/2024	Band for summer event	£ 320.00	Will Jackson	28/06/2024	PAYE Q1	£ 388.60	HMRC	28/06/2024	Clerks Salary Q1	£ 1,554.90	Clerk	08/07/2024	Grounds Maintenance	£ 391.00	Cleanzone	22/07/2024	Cleaning May and June	£ 105.00	Jean Bowyer	05/08/2024	Grounds Maintenance	£ 391.00	Cleanzone	04/09/2024	Water Rates	£ 248.06	Wave Water	09/09/2024	Grounds Maintenance	£ 391.00	Cleanzone	30/09/2024	PAYE Q2	£ 388.60	HMRC	30/09/2024	Clerks Salary Q2	£ 1,554.90	Clerk	02/10/2024	Grounds Maintenance	£ 436.00	Cleanzone	
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74.24	<p><b><u>IT (Website)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>White Digital</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our web hosting service was with White Digital who are based in Darlington. They have been taken over by Maitland who are based in Newcastle. The office in Darlington will remain but will be branded Maitland. Maitland has doubled the price of the hosting service from £180 to £360 excluding VAT. In addition, they charge an hourly rate for updates that we cannot do ourselves such as annual headers.</li><li>• The Council decided to review options with the intention of changing providers. The Clerk will review options and report back to the next meeting.</li></ul>	Clerk																																								
75.24	<p><b><u>Policies</u></b></p> <p>The Council discussed a paper from County Durham Association of Local Councils listing all, what they (CDALC) considered, were essential and desirable policies.</p> <p>Councillor Goldfinch will draft those new policies the Council agreed to adopt.</p>	SG																																								
76.24	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <p><b>Clerks and Councils Magazine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillor Stewart took the magazine.</li></ul>																																									

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77.24	<u><b>Events and Training</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council noted the events and training logs.</li> </ul>	
78.24	<u><b>Marketing and social media</b></u> <p>There was nothing to report at this meeting.</p>	
79.24	<u><b>Whessoe Parish Hall Committee</b></u> <p>Councillor Woodley updated the meeting on progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual budget for running and maintaining the hall was largely on target. The shortfall would be covered, as planned, by the precept.</li> <li>A number of contracts are up for renewal and the expectation is that there should be considerable savings against the budget for next year.</li> <li>We had contacted the developer at Beaumont Grange about their plans for a fence around the hall site. POST MEETING NOTE: The Clerk and Councillor Goldfinch are meeting their representative on 27th March.</li> <li>An electrical circuit had tripped in the kitchen. The Clerk has asked M H Gorman to investigate.</li> </ul>	
80.24	<u><b>Whessoe Parish Social Committee</b></u> <p>Councillor Minay updated the meeting on progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the year the Committee had raised £1,694 through the proceeds from quiz nights and a grant organised by Borough Councillor Lawley from the Stronger Communities Fund. The Committee spent £1,434 on events.</li> <li>The Committee was planning for 9 quiz/race nights during the coming financial year and a Christmas Party on Saturday 6th December. All planned events up to December 2025 have been advertised.</li> <li>The Committee was planning to be financially self sufficient and hoped to generate excess funds from the planned events.</li> <li>The Committee asked the Council to consider using the excess funds to support local charities. The Council will consider the proposal and discuss the options in detail at the meeting in May.</li> </ul>	All Council members
81.24	<u><b>Date of future meetings at 7pm unless stated otherwise:</b></u> <p>Annual Meeting – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025</p> <p><b>Annual Parish Meeting:</b> Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 – 6.30 pm to 7.00 pm</p> <p>The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parish Council will meet on the above date during 2024-5.</p>	

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