

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK

Mrs Mandy Senior
7 Stonecroft
Horsley
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 0AF
01661 852277
Email: whittingtonparishcouncil@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN

Cllr S Gregory
Denewood
Bingfield
HEXHAM
NE46 4HR
01434 672321
www.whittingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 10th May 2022

The 2022 Annual Whittington Parish Meeting will be held in Great Whittington Village Hall at 19:30hrs on Tuesday 10th May 2022

RESOLUTIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED AND PASSED PROVIDING SUCH RESOLUTIONS ARE GIVEN TO THE CHAIRMAN OR THE CLERK AT LEAST THREE DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING.

AGENDA.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting Held on 18th May 2021
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. County Councillor's Report
6. Parish Council Accounts 2021/2022

It is expected that the following subjects may then be discussed:

- a) Reports by any local organisations
- b) Any other matter raised by an elector.

Mr Simon Gregory
Chairman
03 May 2022

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 MAY 2021 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Councillor S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Councillors A Williamson, J Sadler, M Petrie, S Lawson and W E Robson.

Also present: Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council
County Councillor Mrs V Jones

1. **Apologies for absence** – None
2. **To receive the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting held on 14th May 2019.** Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2019, having previously been circulated, were accepted as an accurate record.
3. **Matters arising.** None
4. **Chairman's Report.** Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Parish Council has been required to meet remotely since May 2020 and this negated the need for a Chairman's report in 2020. Despite having to meet remotely we have held our requisite six meetings per year since our 2019 AGM. Our meetings have been well attended by councillors, our parish Clerk and County Councillor.

Since our last AGM we welcomed two new members onto the Parish Council, in May 2019 we were joined by Edward Gillam and when Kevin Laing left the Parish Council due to work commitments we were joined in May 2020 by Eddie Robson.

Earlier this year Edward Gillam and Paul Martin both resigned from the Parish Council, Paul was our longest serving member, having joined the Parish Council in May 1991 and served for 30 years. We are now joined by Marion Petrie and Steven Lawson and the current members were returned unopposed in the recent elections.

We have increased the precept again this year, a modest increase which means the cost to a band D dwelling in the parish is now £21.63 per year or £1.80 per month. This increase has been necessary to maintain a reasonable balance in the face of increased costs, mainly for grass cutting and tree maintenance. It is agreed that the increased cost of grass cutting is justified by the improvement in the standard of the work and the appearance of the village. There has been significant expenditure on tree maintenance, but we now have some time for reserves to recover before more work is needed. We have had several trees planted to replace those that had previously been removed, and I would like to thank Councillor Eddie Robson for the time and effort he gave to remove two diseased rowan trees from the village green.

I reported as long ago as 2012 that the dog fouling issue was improving but unfortunately it remains a significant problem, unfortunately the increased number of dogs has not been accompanied by owner responsibility. More signs have been put in place and an additional large bin has been provided but the problem persists. May I again thank Councillor Robson for his work installing the new bin and relocating the original bin to the bottom of the village. There have not been any significant planning issues to consider, the Badgers End development appears to have stalled, Aspen Ridge is currently for sale and although the Queens Head has been sold, little work has been carried out.

I feel that we should try to raise the profile of the Parish Council and the Village Hall within the community, there are many residents of the Parish who do not receive any

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communications from the Parish Council or from the Village Hall and I am sure many people do not know who we are or what we do.

The actions of a small number of Village Hall committee members over the past year have created division and ill feeling within the community, I hope that reason, respect and discussion can restore harmony. There is a new Village Hall committee in place who are working to enable community events to take place as and when restrictions will allow. As ever, there are many highway matters that need to be addressed, the Highway department is slow to respond to problems, communication is extremely poor, and the work rate in our parish is below reasonable expectations.

I would like to thank all parish councillors for their attendance and contribution, Mandy, for your support and all the work you do and Veronica for the help you give us and may I congratulate you on your re-election as our County Councillor.

5. **County Councillor's Report.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her report in the Annual Meeting that followed.
6. **Parish Council Accounts 2020-2021.** The accounts for the year 2020-21 were presented by the Clerk for information. A copy is attached to this minute.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

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You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of Whittington Parish Council in Great Whittington Village Hall on TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022 following the Annual Parish Meeting AT 7.30PM

AGENDA

- 522.01 Election of Parish Council Chairman
- 522.02 To receive Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- 522.03 Apologies for absence
- 522.04 Election of Vice Chairman
- 522.05 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest
- 522.06 To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on **22 MARCH 2022**.
- 522.07 Items arising from the Minutes, not already on the Agenda.
- 522.08 To receive report from the County Councillor
- 522.09 Planning Matters
 - a) Planning Applications
 - b) Planning Decisions
- 522.10 Finance/Administration
 - a) Accounts for payment – To review and approve items of expenditure.
- 522.11 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21
 - a) To consider and agree any actions arising from the Internal Auditor's Report 2021-2022 [Copy attached]
 - b) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022 [Copy attached]
 - c) To approve the draft annual accounts, bank reconciliation, Asset Register for 2021-2022 [Copy attached]
 - d) To approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances 2021-2022 [Draft copies attached]
 - e) To confirm and approve the Certificate of Exemption [Draft copy attached]
- 522.12 Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.
 - a) To consider proposed plans for Community Field [See attached]
- 522.13 To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.
- 522.14 Correspondence
- 522.15 Any other urgent business as allowed by the Chairman/Agenda items for next meeting [For information only]
- 522.16 Date of next meeting.



Mrs M Senior
Clerk to the Council
03 May 2022

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS		
REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
22/00289/PREAPP	Land East of Aspen Ridge, Great Whittington	Construction of 10no dwellings

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT					
PAYEE	DETAILS	NET AMOUNT	VAT	GROSS AMOUNT	REF
Northumberland CC	Supply and installation of litter bin – Carr Hill layby	310.24	48.04	262.20	010835
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	163.20		163.20	010836
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	40.80		40.80	010837
Mrs A Senior	Expenses – postages/travel/stationery				010838
Northumberland Assoc of Local Councils	Subscription	129.07		129.07	010839
Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal	257.60		257.60	010840
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rental	15.00		15.00	010841

CORRESPONDENCE	
SENDER	MOST OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORWARDED TO COUNCILLORS BY EMAIL
Heathwatch Northumberland	Pharmacy Needs Assessment
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Countryside Voices – April 2022
NALC	eNews - Weekly
Community Action Northumberland	Monthly CAN eNews