

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK

Mrs Mandy Senior
7 Stonecroft
Horsley
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 0AF
07950 297634
Email: parishclerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.org

CHAIRMAN

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

You are hereby summoned to attend the next Meeting of Whittington Parish Council
in Great Whittington Village Hall on

TUESDAY 23rd September 2025 at 7.30PM

AGENDA

- 925.01 Apologies for absence
- 925.02 Declarations of Interest, if any
- 925.03 To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on **22 JULY 2025**.
- 925.04 Actions arising from the Minutes, not already on the Agenda.
- 925.05 To receive report from the County Councillor
- 925.06 Planning Matters
 - a) Planning Applications
 - b) Planning Decisions
- 925.07 Finance/Administration
 - a) Accounts for payment – To review and approve items of expenditure.
 - b) To update signatories on Bank of Scotland account and consider transferring account to Unity Trust Bank [See enclosed information]
 - c) To consider donation to Sport Tynedale [See enclosed information]
- 925.08 Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.
 - a) To arrange survey of the trees on the Village Green.
- 925.09 To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.
- 925.10 Invitation for Town and Parish Councillors to attend a meeting with Northumberland County Council re Budget and Corporate Priorities
- 925.11 To consider priorities to be submitted to the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2026-2029 [See enclosed]
- 925.12 To consider response to Northumberland County Council's county-wide Community Governance Review [See enclosed information]
- 925.13 Any other urgent business as allowed by the Chairman/Agenda items for next meeting [For information only]
- 925.14 Date of next meeting.



Mrs M Senior
Clerk to the Council
16th September 2025

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS		
REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
25/01501/FUL	Land West of Village Hall, Great Whittington	Application for 11no dwellings
25/02238/FUL	East Side Farm, Bingfield	Single storey porch extension to south west elevation and single storey utility extension to north east elevation. GRANTED
25/02951/VARY CO	Land at North East of High Baulk, Great Whittington	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 23/02711/VARYCO in order to replace the approved proposed site plan with a revised proposed site plan to incorporate a minor amendment to the approved access driveway position.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT					
PAYEE	DETAILS	NET AMOUNT	VAT	GROSS AMOUNT	REF
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	6.75		6.75	DD
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	4.75		4.75	DD
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	240.00		240.00	10970
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	60.00		60.00	10971
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	22.95		22.95	10972
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – September 2025	15.00		15.00	10973
Income					
Northumberland CC	Precept	3500.00		3500.00	08.09.25

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Report to the Parish Council: Recommendation to Switch Banks from Bank of Scotland to Unity Trust Bank

Background

The Parish Council has experienced ongoing difficulties with the Bank of Scotland account over the past several years. The issues have been particularly evident in relation to internet banking access, signatory management, and statement provision.

Issues with Current Arrangements (Bank of Scotland):

Internet Banking Access

- The Clerk has been attempting to register for internet banking since November 2024.
- Application forms have been completed twice and, most recently, submitted online.
- Despite these efforts, access has not been granted.
- Upon contacting Bank of Scotland, the Clerk was advised that the internet banking application was rejected because it was “not signed in accordance with the mandate.”

Signatory Records

- The Council changed its signatories approximately three years ago and received confirmation at the time that the changes had been processed.
- However, Bank of Scotland has now stated that the change of signatories was never actioned.
- As a result, other than Simon Gregory, none of the current signatories on the account are serving Parish Councillors.

Bank Statements

- Statements are issued six weeks after the end of the month.
- This delay makes timely bank reconciliations extremely challenging and creates particular difficulties at year-end when accurate financial reporting is essential.

Recommendation

Given the ongoing problems, it is recommended that the Parish Council switch its banking arrangements from Bank of Scotland to Unity Trust Bank, which is widely used by parish councils and other local authorities.

Benefits of Switching to Unity Trust Bank:

- Specifically designed to support the banking needs of councils, charities, and community organisations.
- Reliable and straightforward internet banking services.
- More responsive customer support, with experience in dealing with parish councils.
- Streamlined management of signatories and accounts, reducing the risk of similar issues recurring.
- Timely provision of bank statements, allowing for effective monthly reconciliations and improved financial reporting.

Conclusion

The current arrangements with Bank of Scotland are no longer fit for purpose and place unnecessary strain on the Clerk and Council's financial administration. Moving to Unity Trust Bank would provide a more

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professional, reliable, and efficient banking service, supporting the Council in carrying out its statutory financial responsibilities.

Recommendation to Council:

That the Parish Council resolves to:

1. Open a new current account with Unity Trust Bank.
2. Approve the transfer of banking arrangements from Bank of Scotland to Unity Trust Bank.
3. Authorise the Clerk, with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to complete the necessary documentation and arrange for the closure of the Bank of Scotland account once all outstanding transactions are cleared.