

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 March 2019 (Subject to Parish Council approval)

PRESENT: Councillor S Gregory Chairman
 Councillor A Williamson
 Councillor J Sadler
 Councillor K Laing

Also present: Mrs M Senior Clerk
 Mrs V Jones County Councillor

1464. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr P Martin

The Parish Council were saddened to advise of the death of Jessie Tiffin who had been a Parish Councillor for 35 years. She gave a lot of her time to the Parish Council over the years and will be a big miss.

1465. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr S Gregory declared a personal interest in item 5 Planning Matters, application number 19/00433/FUL as this application refers to a neighbouring property.

1466. MINUTES of the meeting held on 15 January 2019 having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

1467. MATTERS ARISING.

a) **GREAT WHITTINGTON MEMORIAL.** Minute 1453a refers. No response had been received to the letter. A further letter will be sent.

1468. PLANNING MATTERS

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
19/00433/FUL	Land Adjacent to Bingfield House, Bingfield	Retrospective application for removal of approx. 10 x 3m of verge (edged red on Plan 1) in order to widen access way to Bingfield farmstead.
19/04009/FUL	Leadgates, Great Whittington	Proposed erection of two storey extension - GRANTED
19/00410/LBC	Town Farm, Great Whittington	Listed building consent for redesign of rear garden. Replace fencing, hard and soft landscaping. Repair stone wall and installed fixed metal gate.
19/00473/FUL	The Bungalow, Grindstone Law, Matfen	Proposed internal alterations to first floor. Installation of dormers. New rooflights with integral balconies. New entrance proch.
19/00759/LBC	Town Farm, Great Whittington	Listed Building Consent – Proposed installation of 7 no low profile roof vents to existing roof; installation of 3 no chimney caps to existing chimney pots; repointing of existing stone to south elevations and adjoining east gable; repointing/refilled to window and door openings and replacement of 2 no timber sahes to existing windows to west elevation.

1469. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE	VAT	NET	CHQ NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	140.00		140.00	010721
H M Revenue Customs	PAYE	35.00		35.00	010722
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Subscription	36.00		36.00	010723
Mrs A Senior	Expenses – Travel/postages	57.49		57.49	010724
Income					
HM Revenue Customs	VAT refund	646.72		646.72	06.03.19

1470. TO CONSIDER QUOTES TO CARRY OUT TREE WORKS. Two quotes had been received to carry out all the tree works in the Arboricultural Report. It was AGREED to accept the quote of Arborforce at a cost of £1200 + VAT.
 Several residents had objected to the Planning application to carry out the tree works and Cllr S Gregory provided the residents with the reasoning behind the tree works.

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council are responsible for the management of trees that grow on Parish Council land, With that responsibility in mind, the Parish Council commissioned a Tree Survey to identify any trees which were unsafe, diseased, unstable or requiring attention.

This survey was carried out by an Arboricultural and Ecological Consultancy and the Parish Council has applied for Planning Permission to carry out tree works in a Conservation Area, as required by planning law, to implement the recommendations of this Arboricultural Assessment. The Parish Council has been criticised over an alleged lack of consultation. This issue has been minuted in the July, September, November 2018 and January 2019 minutes. The minutes are displayed on the Parish Council notice board and on the Parish Council website. Unfortunately, none of the objectors to the planning application had contacted the Parish Council to clarify the need for the works before submitting their objections. A lengthy discussion took place with the residents over the need for the works including the removal of 3 horse chestnut which had been identified as having decay present on the stem, fungal brackets visible on the stem and canker wounds. The recommendation of the survey and tree surgeons was to remove the trees and the roots and replant with a Rowan or similar. The Parish Council is to discuss a program of tree planting and put together a tree maintenance plan after the proposed tree works are complete. Any resident that wishes to be involved in the tree planting scheme or tree maintenance plan is asked to contact the Parish Council.

- 1471. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.** County Councillor Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters from Northumberland County Council.
- a) **QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL.** Investment had been agreed and plans for a new High School incorporating Hexham Middle School on the existing site had been put out to tender.
 - b) **BROADBAND.** Halton Shield is in the programme but not progressing. The contract date is the end of 2019 however Halton Shield may not be included. NCC have a voucher scheme which residents can put towards an alternative provision. 97% of the county is currently covered by high speed broadband.
 - c) **ARCH.** The report is going to audit this week. NCC is not taking any action. The report will be publicised.
 - d) **ROADS.** Pothole repairs are now being repaired
Cllr V Jones is to meet with the Highway Inspector and asked for suggestions to put forward for repairs. The following was suggested; Great Whittington to Matfen Road; Junction with Military Road from Great Whittington.
 - e) **COUNCIL HOUSES.** NCC is looking to building affordable houses in areas where there is a need. It will be a planned programme with small numbers of houses.
- 1472. GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL AND THE VILLAGE ENVIROMENT.** Cllr J Sadler is on the Village Hall committee and gave an update. A wine tasting evening, led by Helen Savage, had been arranged after Easter. Flyers will be going around the village within the next couple of weeks. Yoga is to be held on Mondays and there are to be some taster sessions. The photographic competition is being arranged with a view to producing a 2020 calendar.
- 1473. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.**
- a) **GRASS CUTTING.** The meeting with officers from Northumberland County Council was proving difficult to arrange. The clerk will continue to pursue this. With regards to the tree replanting scheme, Cllr S Gregory is to speak to Simon Ogg. Simon also arranges grass cutting and he will be asked to quote for the Parish Council areas. The clerk will arrange the meeting with NCC and also obtain a map of the grass cutting areas. It was noted that the NCC grass cutting spray weed killer in difficult to cut areas. Some residents were not happy with this around their properties.
- 1474. VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR.** The statutory notice had been posted on the Parish Council website. If a by election is not called by 29 March 2019 then the Parish Council are able to co-opt.
- 1475. INFORMATION ITEMS.**
Copies of all information items are available from the Clerk on request.
- NALC – weekly eNews
 - Northumberland County Council – Highway Services in Winter 2018
 - Clerks and Councils Direct – February 2019 Issue 122
 - Community Action Northumberland – News – Winter Issue – February 2019
 - LCR Magazine – Winter 2019
 - Campaign to Protect Rural England – North East Newsletter Winter 2018/19

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- 1476. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID.** It was agreed to go ahead with the application to protect the Queens Head as an asset of community value. The application had been completed and will be submitted to NCC.
- 1477. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EVENT.** An event is to be held to thank the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their hard work on producing the Neighbourhood Plan for Whittington Parish.
- 1477. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 19:30 in Great Whittington Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

_____Chairman