

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the 2019 Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 1930hrs in Great Whittington Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor S Gregory Chairman
Councillor P Martin
Councillor A Williamson
Councillor K Laing
Councillor J Sadler
Also present: Mrs M Senior Clerk
Mrs V Jones County Councillor

1. MINUTES of the 2018 annual Meeting held on **22 May 2018** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record. There were no matters arising.
2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Cllr S Gregory gave his verbal report on the work of the Parish Council over the past year:
 - The Parish Council had met the six requisite times over the past year with a good attendance by Parish councillors but with little support from members of the public.
 - Sadly on 29th January, Jessie Tiffin died suddenly. Jessie had lived in the village for 46 years and had been a member of the Parish Council for 38 years. Jessie had tremendous local knowledge and will be missed by many.
 - Another Parish Councillor, Cathy Edy, moved out of the parish and in January John Sadler was co-opted onto the Parish Council to take Cathy's place.
 - This time last year we were waiting for a referendum date for the Whittington Neighbourhood Development Plan. The referendum was in favour and on 13th November last year the NDP was 'made by resolution' and is now part of our planning regulation. Cllr S Gregory thanked everyone who contributed, all those who were part of the steering group and particularly John Roberts who had been the driving force behind the creation of the NDP.
 - The precept has remained unchanged and the Parish Council holds a healthy surplus. The Parish Council still holds a small amount which is ring fenced but we need to be mindful that our surplus will be eroded in time, due in part to the increased cost of grass cutting and part to the cost of tree maintenance. This year, the Parish Council has engaged the services of Simon Ogg, a resident in the village, to cut the grass. Simon will be marginally more expensive than NCC but it was felt that this would be offset by an improvement in the quality of the work, initial results suggest that this is the case. The cost of tree maintenance can be regarded as an additional outgoing and will become a budget item of £500-£600 per annum over the next 5 years to cover that liability.
 - During the past year the Parish Council has acquired a new seat and a new noticeboard to add to the list of assets which has reduced the balance carried forward in our accounts.
 - The Parish Council has continued to support the Village Hall financially, this year we have been able to give extra support with money returned to the Parish Council from the Mid Tyne Community Trust.
 - Simon Gregory thanked all the Parish Councillors for their attendance and contribution, Mandy, the clerk, for not missing a meeting and for all the unseen work that she does and Veronica, our County Councillor.
3. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS. The accounts for the year 2018/19 were presented by the Clerk for information. A copy is attached to this minute. They showed an end of year balance of £10,958, a decrease over the previous year.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1940hrs and moved to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

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MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 Following the Annual Parish Meeting in Great Whittington Village Hall (Subject to Parish Council approval)

PRESENT: Councillor S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Councillors P Martin, A Williamson, K Laing and J Sadler

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

1478. ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN. It was proposed by Cllr A Williamson, seconded by Cllr J Sadler and AGREED to re-elect Simon Gregory as chairman. Cllr S Gregory accepted and took the chair.

1479. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE. Cllr S Gregory gave his declaration of acceptance of chairman in the presence of the Clerk.

1480. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN. It was proposed by Cllr S Gregory, seconded by Cllr J Sadler and AGREED to elect Cllr A Williamson as Vice Chairman.

1481. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

1482. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

1483. CO-OPTION TO FILL ONE VACANCY. It was proposed by Cllr S Gregory, seconded by Cllr K Laing and AGREED to co-opt Edward Gillam onto the Parish Council. Mr Gillam gave and signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council.

1484. MINUTES of the meeting held on **19 March 2019** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

1485. PLANNING MATTERS

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
19/00975/FUL	Land to South East of the Lodge, South Farm, Hallington	Proposed change of use of part of an existing grazing field by constructing a menage / outdoor equestrian arena for personal use.
19/00743/FUL	The Bungalow, Grindstone Law, Matfen	Proposed internal alterations to first floor. Installation of dormers. New rooflights with integral balconies. New entrance porch. GRANTED
18/04302/FUL	Land South West of Gardeners Cottage, Bingfield	Erection of 2 disabled friendly holiday cottages with parking and new access to replace previously approved 3 single storey chalets. REFUSED
19/00759/LBC	Town Farm, Great Whittington	Listed Building Consent for the repointing of existing stone to south elevation and adjoining east gable; repointment/refilled to window and door openings and replacement of 3 no timber sashes to existing windows to west elevation. GRANTED

ENFORCEMENT ISSUE. Building work had commenced on a derelict building on the C212 between the A68 and Bingfield Farm (OS ref NY979723). Work had been carried out on the gable end of the building and a new access created in the boundary wall of the field. The Planning Department will be contacted.

1486. FINANCE

a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- It was agreed to pay Simon Ogg an interim payment in July for the grass cutting.
- The insurance renewal proposal had been received from Zurich Insurance and it was AGREED to renew for a further year.
- The Whittington NDP domain name is due for renewal on 8 June 2019. As the Neighbourhood Plan is now made it was AGREED it was unnecessary to renew.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE	VAT	NET	CHQ NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	152.00		152.00	010725
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	38.00		38.00	010726
Morpeth Net	Website maintenance	100.00		100.00	010727
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rental	45.00		45.00	010728
Northumberland ALC	Subscription	134.28		134.28	010729
Mrs A Senior	Postages/Travel expenses	35.42		35.42	010730
Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal	257.60		257.60	010731
Income					
Northumberland CC	Precept payment	2175.00		2175.00	11.04.19

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- b) **RISK ASSESSMENT.** The risk assessment circulated to Councillors was noted and the recommendations made therein to cover the Council were AGREED.
1488. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.** County Councillor Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters from Northumberland County Council.
- a) **CLIMATE EMERGENCY.** Northumberland County Council is looking at targets set by Government and is on track to exceed target by 2020. They are also set to exceed the target for 2030 by 2025.
- b) **RECYCLING STRATEGY.** Northumberland County Council is to introduce kerbside glass recycling and trials are currently ongoing for food waste recycling.
- c) **POT HOLES.** Northumberland County Council has filled more pot holes than any other county. They have carried out a massive programme of repairs.
- d) **QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGH SCHOOL.** Plans are going well for the new school and updates will be given in due course.
1489. **GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL AND THE VILLAGE ENVIROMENT.**
Cllr J Sadler gave an update on matters relating to the Village Hall. The Village Hall had held a successful wine tasting evening led by Helen Savage. The Parish Council still hold part of a grant from the Mid Tyne Trust which the Village Hall were hoping could be used for capital improvements. Cllr J Sadler is to discuss projects with Louise Dawson. It was noted that Louise is moving out of the village and will therefore be standing down from the Village Hall Committee. The committee is currently working on succession planning. Louise had been a driving force in improving the Village Hall and will be a huge miss.
The Village Hall is holding a Photography Competition. Winners will be chosen by a panel and voted on at the September Coffee Morning. Categories are Children up to the age of 16 and Adults. The winning entries will be included in the 2020 Village Hall Calendar.
1490. **COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.**
- a) **WAR MEMORIAL.** It was noted that Chris Brice is raising money for a new war memorial. He is organising a fundraising event in the Village Hall. It was AGREED to keep in touch with Chris re his fundraising efforts and progress. The clerk will contact the residents who have possession of the existing memorial to request it is returned to the Parish for restoration and display. The War Memorial Trust will be contacted to request support.
- b) **KARBON HOMES – AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** An email had been received by Karbon Homes regarding the provision of affordable housing in Great Whittington. It was AGREED that the Parish Council and the village itself would not be supportive of an application. Karbon Homes will be contacted.
- c) **GRASS CUTTING.** It had been AGREED to appoint Simon Ogg to carry out the grass cutting in Great Whittington. Northumberland County Council had been contacted to cancel their services. It was noted that the strip of grass verge outside the new development had large stones laid along the edge. This is a hazard for cars and is preventing the grass from being cut in this area. Highways Dept will be contacted to request removal.
1491. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2018/19**
- a) **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018-2019.** It was AGREED to approve the previously circulated Annual Governance Statement 2018-2019.
- b) **DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018-2019.** It was AGREED to approve the previously circulated draft accounts 2018-2019.
- c) **ACCOUNTING STATEMENT AND EXPLANATION OF VARIANCES.** It was AGREED to approve the previously circulated Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances.
- d) **TO CONFIRM AND APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION OF EXEMPTION.** It was AGREED to confirm and approve the previously circulated Certification of Exemption.
1492. **RECOVERY OF COSTS FOR PROVISION OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TO EVENT ORGANISERS.** Changes have been made to the proposals and the arrangements that will be implemented for the recovery of costs incurred by the County Council when requested to provide services such as traffic management, litter picking and refuse collection by organisations running events in the county. Those events taking place between 1st April to 31st May 2019 will, for this year only, continue to receive the same level of free support as last year, whilst the County Council puts in place the new Event Fund arrangements. As from 1st June 2019, NCC will seek to recover the costs it incurs in providing support services such as traffic management, litter picking and refuse collection to event organisers for any events held in the County.
1493. **COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND SPRING CONFERENCE.** The CAN Spring Conference is to be held on Thursday 16th May from 12 noon to 4.30pm at Breamish Hall,

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Powburn. The topic this year will be 'How does rural Northumberland respond to the needs of an increasingly ageing population'.

- 1494. HOUSING STRATEGY FOR NORTHUMBERLAND 2019-2021 CONSULTATION.** The new draft Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-2021 has recently been developed to recognise the changes to legislation and requirements by Government and to deliver the Council's ambitions for Housing Delivery with provision of affordable housing in both rural and urban communities. The consultation is open from Friday 3rd May until 5pm Friday 31st May 2019. Comments can be submitted via email to rachel.gagliano@northumberland.gov.uk.
- 1495. WEED CONTROL PROGRAMME 2019.** Northumberland County Council will be carrying out weed spraying in 2019. A blue dye is added to the spray so that people can see which areas have been sprayed. The blue dye is completely harmless and allows the teams to see exactly where they have sprayed, reducing waste and avoiding over spraying. Once areas have been sprayed NCC will be contacting Parish Councils to advise.
- 1496. SURFACE DRESSING – B6318 HALTON RED HOUSE TO STAGSHAW ROUNDABOUT.** Preparatory patching and repair works will continue through to July 2019. The surface dressing involves the application of hot bitumen to the road surface followed immediately by chippings. The chippings are rolled into the road surface and the excess removed by mechanical sweeper.
- 1497. TOUR OF WEST SLEEKBURN MATERIAL RECYCLING FACILITY.** Northumberland County Council is undertaking work to review and update the Northumberland Waste Strategy and is undertaking some detailed modelling work to look at the viability of increasing the range of materials that can be recycled at the kerbside, to include mixed plastics (pots, tubs and trays), separate collections for glass and food waste. Northumberland County Council is offering Parish Councils the opportunity to attend a tour of the recycling plant at West Sleekburn. The tours will take place on Friday 7th June at 11am or 2pm. The tour will last approximately 2 hours.
- 1497. INFORMATION ITEMS.**
Copies of all information items are available from the Clerk on request.
- NALC – weekly eNews
 - Clerks and Councils Direct – May 2019 Issue 123
 - Community Action Northumberland – Spring Conference
 - Northumberland Day 2019
 - Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice Spring 2019
- 1498. 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. Suggestions were discussed included a BBQ at the Village Hall.
- 1499. TREE WORKS.** The Planning Permission for the works to the trees on the Village Green had still not been received. The clerk been chasing this but had not received a response. Cllr Mrs V Jones to chase this up on the Parish Council's behalf. It was AGREED that once the work commences, the trees on the green outside the Old Blacksmiths Cottage would be heavily pruned to alleviate the problem at this property. Replanting in the areas where trees are felled would be carried out later in the year. It was also agreed to plant a flowering cherry in memory of Jessie Tiffen. Location to be agreed.
It was noted that the trees along the verge on the Bingfield road are in poor condition. These are the responsibility of NCC.
- 1500. FOOTPATH SIGN.** It was noted that the public footpath sign NW of Southlands near to Strawberry House is in need of repair. This will be reported to NCC.
- 1501. CATHY EDY.** It was AGREED to send a token of appreciation to Cathy Edy for her work on the Parish Council over the years.
- 1502. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 July 2019 at 19:30 in Great Whittington Village Hall.

Chairman