

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM 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 and E Gillam.

Also present: Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council

1541. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr J Sadler

1542. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr A Williamson declared a personal interest in matters relating to Aspen Ridge.

1543. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR. No-one had get come forward to fill the vacancy.

1544. MINUTES of the meeting held on **17 September 2019** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

1545. MATTERS ARISING.

- a) **HEDGE.** Minute 1521d refers. This will be chased up with NCC..
- b) **ENFORCEMENT ISSUE.** Minute 1521c refers. Correspondence had been sent to the wrong address. This has been followed up and dealt with.
- c) **POT HOLE.** Minute 1526 refers. The pothole on the Great Whittington to Matfen road had been repaired however a significant pothole had appeared at the Matfen end of the Great Whittington road. This will be reported.
- d) **NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM.** Minute 1528 refers. No further developments.
- e) **DEFIBRILLATOR.** Minute 1539 refers. An application had been made to the Community Foundation via the Ray Wind Farm Community Fund to fund a defibrillator in Hallington.
- f) **WEBSITE.** Minute 1537 refers. It was noted that Mrs Mandy Senior would continue to maintain the website for the foreseeable future.

1546. PLANNING MATTERS

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
19/03701/FUL	Land South West of Gardeners Cottage, Bingfield	Construction of 2no holiday cottages with parking and new access OBJECTION SENT
19/02131/FUL	Derelict Barn South of Bingfield Farm, Bingfield	Part Retrospective: Creation of a new access and driveway (amended description) GRANTED

1547. FINANCE

a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE	VAT	NET	CHQ NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	152.00		152.00	010739
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	38.00		38.00	010740
Great Whittington Village Hall	November 2019	15.00		15.00	010741
Sport Tynedale	Grant aid	50.00		50.00	010742
Mrs A Senior	Expenses (postages/travel)	39.98		39.98	010743
Calico UK	Website domain	24.00	4.00	20.00	010744
Plexus Media Ltd	Website hosting	29.95		29.95	010745
RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Day wreaths x 2	50.00		50.00	010746
NE Ground Care Ltd	Grass cutting 2019	1780.00		1780.00	010747
Matfen PCC	Donation towards grass cutting	100.00		100.00	010748

b) **DRAFT BUDGET 2020-2021.** A draft budget had been prepared and was discussed. Several amendments were made, and this will be discussed and agreed at the January meeting.

c) **GRANT AID.** After discussion, it was agreed to grant £30 to Community Action Northumberland and £100 to Matfen PCC as a contribution towards the grass cutting in Matfen.

1548. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT. County Councillor Mrs V Jones was unable to attend.

1549. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN. John Roberts attended the meeting to gain the Parish Council's permission to prepare and adopt as part of the Neighbourhood Plan a Conservation Management Plan. It was agreed by the Parish Council to proceed. A quote had been received from Jo Anne Garrick of £2925 which equates to 6.5 days work. Grants are available from various organisations and John Roberts is to pursue this. Permission is required from NCC for the Parish

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Council to do this and John Roberts is to prepare a letter. A discussion took place around Aspen Ridge. It was agreed for the Parish Council to request NCC to initiate Section 214 proceedings as the property is adversely affecting the area due to its derelict condition. John Roberts will draft a letter to this effect.

John Roberts had 8 volunteers to help and support the preparation, consultation and drafting of the Conservation Management Plan. A steering group will be formed and Cllr E Gillam will be the Parish Council representative.

1550. GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL AND THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT.

- a) **GRASS CUTTING.** 8 cuts had been carried out this year. Simon Ogg will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the requirements for 2020.
- b) **TREE PLANTING.** The plan is to keep the trees as low maintenance as possible and provision will be made every year in the budget for various works. Various options were discussed for the bottom of the village i.e. 2 birch and 2 flowering pears. Tree guards will need to be provided. Simon Ogg is to come back to the Parish Council with options. The planting will go ahead in the New Year. Arborforce still need to come back to the village to finish off the tree works.

1551. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.

- **ROAD SWEEPING.** Leaves are currently a problem. NCC will be contacted to bring the sweeper through Great Whittington. It was noted that the gulleys had been cleared 2 weeks ago.
- **BINGFIELD.** Cllr S Gregory had spoken to NCC as a ditch was supposed to be put in alongside the Bingfield road when the road had been resurfaced. This has still not been done.
- **GREAT WHITTINGTON VERGES.** Large vehicles are churning up the verges at the bottom of Great Whittington as they turn.

1552. **COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND – INVITATION TO AGM.** Invitation received to AGM to be held on 4 November 2019 at 2pm in Blanchland Village Hall.

1553. **NORTHUMBRIAN CITIZENS ADVICE.** Invitation received to AGM to celebrate 80 years of this service. It is to be held on Wednesday 20th November 2019 in Stannington Village Hall at 1pm.

1554. **NORTHUMBERLAND TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL CHARTER.** Northumberland County Council had circulated the revised charter which has been developed in partnership with all Northumberland Town and Parish Councils and represents a mutual agreement between the two tiers of local government. The document has been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

1555. **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSAL TO MAKE A PSPO FOR THE CONTROL OF DOGS.** The Council made a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control under section 59 of The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 in 2017. The Council is now making a new PSPO to replace the same to take account of some alterations which do not fall within the scope of variations permitted under section 61 of the Act (principally the arrangements and definitions of “assistance dogs”) but otherwise the new PSPO will be of substantially the same effect as that currently in force.

1556. **NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN – NOTIFICATION OF EXAMINATION HEARINGS.** Public hearings for Chapter 13 of the Northumberland Local Plan will be held at Morpeth Town Hall on 5th and 6th February 2020.

1557. INFORMATION ITEMS.

Copies of all information items are available from the Clerk on request.

- NALC – weekly eNews
- LCR – Autumn 2019
- Campaign to Protect Rural England- North East Newsletter Autumn 2019
- War Memorials Trust – Number 83 – November 2019
- Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2019 Issue 126
- Community Action Northumberland – CAN News Autumn Issue October 2019

1558. **RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK.** Mandy Senior had resigned as clerk and a new clerk will need to be appointed. A draft advert and job description were prepared and agreed. The post will be advertised in the next available edition of the Hexham Courant. Closing date for applications will be 13 December 2018 with interviews held on Saturday 11 January 2020 from 10.30am.

1559. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 19:30 in Great Whittington Village Hall.

Chairman