

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2020 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, J Sadler A Williamson and E Gillam.

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

1560. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

1561. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr A Williamson declared a personal interest in matters relating to Aspen Ridge.

1562. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR. No-one had get come forward to fill the vacancy.

1563. MINUTES of the meeting held on **19 November 2019** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

1564. MATTERS ARISING.

- a) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN** Minute 1549 refers. A letter had been sent to Northumberland County Council asking for permission for the Parish Council to adopt a Conservation Management Plan as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. No response had been received and the clerk will chase this up.
- b) BINGFIELD ROAD.** Minute 1551 refers. Cllr S Gregory had contact Northumberland County Council several times regarding the ditch. He will continue to pursue.
- c) RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK.** Minute 1558 refers. Unfortunately, no applications had been received. Mandy Senior agreed to continue as clerk until a replacement could be found.
- d) PLANNING MATTERS.** A request was received for the Parish Council to support a planning application. The application conforms to policies on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Tynedale Local Plan. It was AGREED to send a letter of support from the Parish Council.

1565. 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
19/04707/FUL	Rose Hill, Great Whittington	Construction of a side extension to create a 3 bed family home including; extension to accommodate additional bedroom space with a shared shower room; a utility space; central entrance hall and relocated front door.
19/04668/FUL	Bridleside, Great Whittington	Provision of rear dormer window replacing rooflights
19/04731/VARYCO	Leadgates, Great Whittington	Variation of condition 2 pursuant to planning permission 18/04009/FUL in order to allow step free wheelchair access to the vehicular level

1566. FINANCE

- a) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** – Payments were reviewed and it was AGREED to approve the items of expenditure on the list previously circulated.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE	VAT	NET	CHQ NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	152.00		152.00	010749
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	38.00		38.00	010750
Mrs A Senior	Expenses; postages/travel	35.49		35.49	010751
Community Action Nland	Grant aid	30.00		30.00	010752
Calico UK Ltd	Website annual fee SSL cert	28.80	4.80	24.00	010753
Great North Air Ambulance	Grant aid	75.00		75.00	010754

- b) DRAFT BUDGET 2020-2021.** A draft budget had been prepared and was discussed. It was AGREED to increase the precept to £4800.

1567. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT. County Councillor Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and Whittington Parish including the new school for Queen Elizabeth High School children and the state of the roads due to the very wet weather.

1568. GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL AND THE VILLAGE ENVIROMENT. Cllr J Sadler advise that both Liz and Louise had now left the Village Hall Committee and John Roberts is now

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

the new Chair. There is a meeting soon to plan the new programme. There had been several very successful events before Christmas including; children's story telling, the Christmas Party, Christmas Fair and the Highlights Rural Touring Company show.

1569. COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.

a) **DOG FOULING.** It was reported that dog fouling was becoming a problem in Great Whittington. Cllr S Gregory is to provide some signs to Cllr A Williamson

b) **SNOW CLEARANCE AND GRITTING.** There is still an issue of the County Council not gritting the roads in Whittington Parish even on the bus routes. Piles of grit had been placed at the side of the road in Bingfield and it was felt this was unnecessary. County Cllr Mrs V Jones is to raise this with Northumberland County Council.

1570. **TO CONSIDER GRASS CUTTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020 SEASON.** Simon Ogg attended the meeting to discuss the grass cutting. Last year there had been 8 cuts however this had caused some issues to the contractors due to the length of the grass as all grass cuttings were collected and disposed of. Strimming is carried out each time the grass is cut. Simon Ogg provided a quote of £2670 for 12 cuts and the Parish Council requested a quote for 10 cuts including the grass collected. Grass cutting will commence in March, weather permitting.

1571. **TO CONSIDER TREE PLANTING AND TREE WORKS.** The tree works to the trees in the village had still not been completed however Arborforce had promised to complete all works by the end of the week. It was noted that there are some trees on the village green where overhead wires are running through and these will need to be cut back. An application for tree works will be submitted for the 2 trees outside The Old Blacksmiths to be removed.

The Parish Council is to plant 5 trees; one memorial flowering cherry in memory of Jessie Tiffen; 2 pear and 2 Himalayan Birch. The cost will be in the region of £560 + VAT. Simon Ogg was asked to provide options and quotes for tree guards.

1572. **CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence since the November meeting had been noted and most had been circulated by email to all Parish Councillors.

1573. **REQUEST FOR GRANT AID.** Two requests for grant aid had been received.

a) **GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE.** It was AGREED to grant £75.00 to the Great North Air Ambulance.

b) **LIFESPAN.** The request for grant aid was declined.

1573. INFORMATION ITEMS.

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

- NALC – weekly eNews
- Northumberland County Council – Litter campaign Winter 2019
- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice – Winter 2019
- Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2020 – Issue 127

1574. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 19:30 in Great Whittington Village Hall.

Chairman