

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 JULY 2020 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Councillors A Williamson, P Martin, J Sadler, E Gillam, W E Robson.

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

0720.01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – None

0720.02 **MINUTES** of the meeting held on **21 MAY 2020** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

0720.03 **ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) **Bingfield Road.** Minute 0520.04 refers. Northumberland County Council had agreed to carry out the work however this had not gone ahead. Cllr Mrs V Jones to chase this up.
- b) **Dog fouling.** Minute 0520.14 refers. Additional signs had been ordered and Simon Ogg will place in the most strategic points in the village.
- c) **Overgrown Trees.** Minute 520.05 refers. No further progress on the application to remove the trees by the Old Blacksmith Shop. This will be chased up. Cllr S Gregory advised that the trees interfering with the overhead wires were not as bad as first thought. Cllr S Gregory will clear the trees away from the wires in due course.
- d) **Memorial Plaque.** Minute 0520.15b refers. After discussion with Jessie's family, it was agreed not to erect a plaque by the memorial tree.

0720.04 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT.** Cllr Mrs Jones gave her verbal update on matters relating to NCC and Matfen Parish.

- **NCC's Covid 19 Response.** Cllr Jones gave an update on NCC's response to the Covid 19 crisis. Although shielding had ended NCC is still helping people who are nervous about going out. NCC had reopened their public toilets and some play areas and libraries and day services are starting to reopen although many services are still available online. NCC is currently preparing for a winter outbreak.
- **Roads/Local Services.** Some work around the county has been able to continue on the roads with further work being done when able. Cllr Mrs Jones is to chase up any work that has not yet been completed.

0720.05 **PLANNING MATTERS**

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
20/01130/FUL	Bingfield Farmstead, Bingfield	Erection of one 3.5m x 3.5m feed bin next to an agricultural shed.

0720.06 **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	160.00		160.00	010770
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	40.00		40.00	010771
Calico UK	Website domain name fee	24.00	4.00	20.00	010772
Spanglefish (Plexus Media)	Website annual fee	29.95		29.95	010773
Mrs A Senior	Expenses	21.26		21.26	010774

0720.07 **GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL AND THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT.** The Village Hall is still closed with no plans to reopen. John Roberts will be contacted to ask if there are any plans in place to reopen the Village Hall. Matfen Table Tennis Club had made enquiries to use Great Whittington Village Hall on a regular basis. Plans are being made to hold an event in the Village Hall later in the year. It is not yet confirmed whether this will go ahead.

0720.08 **TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

- a) **To consider provision of a litter bin in Great Whittington.** After discussion, it was AGREED to purchase a used 240L wheelie bin with mounting post from NCC at a cost of £162 + VAT. Cllr A Williamson will consult with Simon Ogg as to the best location for the bin. Mrs Senior will order the bin from NCC.
- b) **Grass cutting.** It was noted that there had been no collections of grass this year so far. Invoice for grass cutting and tree planting is still awaited. It was suggested that wildflower areas could be created in the village which would cut down on grass cutting. Initially there is an increased cost to

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create them however savings would be made with the need for less grass cuts. A suggested location would be around Jessie Tiffin's memorial tree. The area would need to be sprayed and planted annually with wildflowers. A sign would be erected advising the area was a wildflower garden. There is a seeded elder growing in this area which needs to be removed. Cllr W E Robson is to arrange to remove this.

- c) **Weed spraying.** Weed spraying had been carried out on the back lane at Southlands. It is unknown who had carried this out. It was noted that Simon Ogg had sprayed along the wall by the new trees at the bottom of the village. He is licensed to use glyphosate. Cllr S Gregory will contact Simon Ogg to establish which areas had been sprayed.
- d) **Hedgerows.** An email had been received from a resident expressing concerns over the removal of hedgerows around the Parish. It was recommended that the resident contact Natural England to advise of the situation.

0720.09 **CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence since the May meeting had been noted and most had been circulated by email to all Parish Councillors and was noted.

- a) **Northumberland Local Plan Examination: Consultation on additional evidence.**
Following the examination hearing sessions held between October 2019 and February 2020, the Inspector examining the Local Plan received additional explanatory evidence from the Council and a consultation will be held between 13 July 2020 and 7th September 2020.

0720.10 **INFORMATION ITEMS.**

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

- NALC – weekly eNews
- Community Action Northumberland – CAN eNews July 2020
- LCR Magazine – Spring 2020
- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Newsletter Summer 2020

0720.11 **ANY URGENT BUSINESS [FOR INFORMATION ONLY]**

- a) **Queens Head.** NCC will be contacted as the Queens Head and surrounding area is still very untidy. The Parish Council will request Section 215 action.

0720.12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 29 September 2020 at 7pm. The advice from NALC/SLCC currently is for Parish Councils to still meet virtually.

Chairman