

## WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2021 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  
County Councillor Mrs V Jones  
John Roberts – Great Whittington Village Hall

0321.01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – None

0321.02 **MINUTES** of the meeting held on **19 January 2021** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

0321.03 **ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) **Bingfield Road.** Minute 121.03a refers. This issue is still ongoing. No response had been received from Northumberland County Council.
- b) **Litter bins.** Minute 121.11a refers. Litter bin is still to be installed.
- c) **Trees.** Minute 121.11c refers. One tree has been removed with one further tree to be removed. This will be carried out in due course.

0321.04 **JOHN ROBERTS, GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL.** John Robert, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee attended the meeting to give an update on the plans for the future of the Village Hall. He gave a brief history of the hall and how it has operated since 1972. Full details can be found on the Village Hall website [www.greatwhittingtonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.greatwhittingtonvillagehall.co.uk). Members of the village hall committee had met with the new owner of The Queens Head (Ralbos) who have presented an opportunity to the Village Hall charity. The pub development includes plans to build a two storey extension on the side of the plot. The upper floor will provide additional bedrooms for the pub with the downstairs area potentially becoming a new village hall. The development of this space would be funded by the sale of the current hall to the pub developers who have expressed an interest in developing it for residential use.

Planning permission has not yet been sought for any development nor have any negotiations taken place regarding the sale of the Village Hall. The Village Hall committee feel that to refurbish the hall to secure its long-term future would require significant funding (£100K) which they feel they could not realistically raise. For this proposal to proceed it will require a vote of the residents in the benefit area, 75% agreement for it to proceed.

Concerns were expressed over security of tenure of the new premises, parking, noise, shared services etc. The current Village Hall will have essential work carried out and will continue to operate when restrictions lift. An AGM is planned for 30 March 2021 via Zoom.

John Roberts is to keep the Parish Council updated with developments.

0321.05 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on items relating to Northumberland County Council and local issues relating to Whittington Parish.

- a) **Bingfield Road.** There is still a drainage issue on this stretch of road. Cllr Mrs Jones had spoken to Martin King recently and a full discussion is needed. She will follow this up on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b) **Hallington Road.** Flooding on the Hallington road had taken 2 months to subside. This is on the list for improvement works however will be prioritised with other highways issues around the County.
- c) **Snow Clearance.** Cllr Mrs Jones had spoken to NCC regarding the damage done during the snow clearance.

0321.06 **PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) **Planning Application No: 20/003388/FUL.** Martyn Owen and Simon Glover attended the meeting following their submission of planning application no 20/03388/FUL as there had been several objections. They would be happy to engage with the local community and address any issues. The Parish Council had objected on highway grounds. The applicants advised that there was the possibility of passing places/ one ways systems/ marshalls etc.

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
20/02786/FUL 20/02787/LBC	Buildings to the north and land to the west of Hallington Mill	Small scale tourism development consisting of construction of a multi-functional events venue in replacement of an existing hay shed, conversion of a historic threshing barn into a small holiday home, construction of footbridge over

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		watercourse, associated access, car parking, services and landscaping works. <b>GRANTED</b>
19/03726/FUL	Land at North East of High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington	Conversion of agricultural buildings into 4no residential units as amended. <b>GRANTED</b>
21/00121/FUL	Leadgates, Great Whittington	Alteration and extension of existing dwelling infilling South east corner of building, associated drainage and external works. <i>Objection had been sent.</i>
21/00536/FUL	Clydesdale House, Great Whittington	Single storey extension. <i>Cllr A Williamson had forwarded a letter of objection from a resident. The Parish Council is to add further comments in view of the additional information.</i>

### 0321.07 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	010789
HM Revenue and Customs	PAYE	40.00		40.00	010790
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Subscription	36.00		36.00	010791

### 0321.08 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- a) **GRASS CUTTING.** An additional quote had been received for grass cutting in Great Whittington in 2021. It was AGREED to accept Simon Ogg's quote at the same cost as 2020. .
- b) **STATE OF THE ROADS.** Several roads in the Parish are in a terrible state. The following roads are in need of attention:
- North of Hallington High Farm entrance.
  - Great Whittington to Matfen road
  - Roses Bower road
  - Pothole on A68 had been reported and was repaired in 2-3 days.

### 0321.09 CORRESPONDENCE.

All correspondence received since the January meeting had been noted and most has been circulated to all councillors by email.

- Citizens Advice Northumberland – Request for donation. Deferred
- Northumberland County Council – Parish Elections Nomination Packs

### 0321.10 INFORMATION ITEMS.

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

- NALC – weekly eNews
- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Membership of CPRE 2021

### 0321.11 ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS.

Nomination forms had been sent to all current councillors. Cllr P Martin advised that he is standing down. The nomination period opens on 26 March 2021 and runs until 8 April 2021. The clerk advised of the arrangements for completion and checking of the nomination forms.

### 0321.12 ANY URGENT BUSINESS [FOR INFORMATION ONLY].

Nothing to report.

### 0321.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7.30pm. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

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Chairman