

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Cllr S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs, W E Robson, J Sadler, S Lawson and M Petrie.

1121.01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** None

1121.02 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.** Nothing to declare.

1121.03 **TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL ONE VACANCY.** After discussion, it was AGREED to co-opt Chrissy Ross onto the Parish Council. She signed her declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk.

1121.04 **MINUTES** of the meeting held on **7 September 2021** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

1121.05 **ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) **Dog Fouling.** Minute 0921.08c refers. Dog fouling continues to be a problem in the village. The contractors cutting the grass are experiencing problems when cutting and strimming the grass. It was agreed to put out a plea on Facebook asking residents to pick up after their dogs. It was noted there are now 2 bins to deposit dog waste and plenty of signs asking dog walkers/owners to pick up.
- b) **Grass cutting.** Minute 0921.09a refers. The current contractor had marked up the village map of areas where he cuts. It was noted that some of these areas are not village green. Parish Councillors will meet onsite to establish the areas of village green which need to be cut.
- c) **Tree works.** Minute 0921.09b refers. The planning application to fell the ash trees in the village had been submitted and rejected. NCC require an arboricultural survey of the trees confirming their condition. Cllr S Gregory had spoken to NCC for guidance on ash dieback. Ash trees cannot be felled until 20% of the tree is dead.

1121.06 **PLANNING MATTERS.** The Parish Council no longer receive hard copies of the plans and all plans must be viewed online. Notifications of planning applications are emailed to all councillors. Any comments should then be emailed to the Chairman to submit to Northumberland County Council.

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
21/03688/FUL	Highfield House, C224 Military Road Junction to Great Whittington	Demolition of garage and ground floor rear extensions. Replacement of garage and single storey rear extension.
21/03700/VARYCO	Buildings to the north and land to the west of Hallington Mill	Variations of conditions 2 (approved plans), 6 (landscaping), 8 (boundary treatments), 11 (footbridge), 12 (car parking), 13 (vehicular access), 14 (cycle parking), 27 (ecological mitigation) and 32 (foul drainage) pursuant to planning permission 20/02786/FUL
21/03728/VARYCO	Buildings to North and land to the west of Hallington Mill	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 20/02787/LBC
21/00121/FUL	Leadgates, Great Whittington	Alteration and extension of existing dwelling infilling south-east corner of building, associated drainage and external works WITHDRAWN
21/00667/FUL APP/P2935/W/21/3275635	Land North-East of High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington	Conversion of agricultural buildings into 4no residential units. APPEAL

1121.07 **FINANCE**

- a) **Accounts for payment.** Payments were reviewed and it was AGREED to approve the items of expenditure on the list previously circulated.
- b) **To consider request from Matfen and Ryal PCC for grant aid.** A request had been received from Matfen and Ryal PCC requesting a financial contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyards. After discussion, it was AGREED to send a contribution of £100.
- c) **To consider draft budget and agree precept for 2022-2023.** The draft budget was circulated and noted. Estimated expenditure for 2022-2023 is £6,029 however the

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expected balance of funds at the end of the current financial year should be in the region of £9,500. It was AGREED to levy a precept of £5,000 on NCC. No increase on the previous year.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE	VAT	NET	CHQ NO
The Defib Pad	Replacement defibrillator pads	168.59	28.10	140.49	010811
Mrs A Senior	Replacement cheque 010810	41.54		41.54	010812
Sport Tynedale	Grant aid	50.00		50.00	010813
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	160.00		160.00	010814
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	40.00		40.00	010815
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rental – November	15.00		15.00	010816
Mrs A Senior	Expenses – postages/travel				010817
Timpsons	Keys for Hallington notice board	10.00		10.00	010818
RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Day wreath x 2	50.00		50.00	010819
Corbridge Parish Council	SLCC subscription contribution	13.57		13.57	010820
NE Groundcare Ltd	Grass cutting 2021	2225.00		2225.00	010822

1121.08 GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL AND THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT.

- a) **Great Whittington Village Hall.** Cllr M Petrie gave an update on matters relating to the Village Hall. A projector, screen, hearing loop and sound system had been installed. This will enable the Village Hall committee to show films. They are applying for a licence, at a cost of £179, to enable films to be shown in the hall. The committee is looking into the possibility of streaming sporting events. The hall has a current TV licence. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee are providing a free library for adults and children in the Village Hall Garden. Cllr M Petrie gave an update on the renewable energy scheme.
- b) **Update of war memorial.** It was noted Chris Bryce had arranged to have the lettering on the war memorial renewed.
- c) **Notice board.** The Clerk had provided a notice board with keys for Hallington. Cllr S Lawson is to arrange to have the notice board installed.

1121.09 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND HIGHWAY MATTERS.

- a) **Defibrillator.** It was AGREED to contribute to the electricity costs for the running of the defibrillator in Hallington. Cllr S Lawson is to obtain an invoice for the cost which will be around £40.
- b) **Sign.** It was noted that a sign had been knocked by a vehicle at the road end of the C224. This will be reported.

1121.10 CORRESPONDENCE.

All correspondence received since the September meeting was noted and had been circulated to all councillors by email.

- Northumberland County Council – Invitation to virtual launch and Q&A for the Community Climate Champion programme on 29 September 2021 via Zoom
- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Webinar. Great new housing design in rural England.
- Northumberland County Council – Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation.
- Northumberland County Council – Parish Precepts 2022-2023.
- Sport Tynedale – Invitation to the Annual West Northumberland Awards. 9th December 2021

1121.11 INFORMATION ITEMS.

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

- NALC – weekly eNews
- Community Action Northumberland – eNews – October/November 2021
- Clerks and Councils Direct – Issues 137 and 138. September/November 2021

1121.12 TO CONSIDER PROVIDING PLAY FACILITIES WITHIN THE PARISH.

Cllr M Petrie had met with some parents in Great Whittington who had enquired as to whether the Village Hall

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Committee could provide play facilities in Great Whittington. The parents would like an informal space where children can meet up and play safely. Problems currently are finding a site near the centre of the village as the Parish Council does not own any land. It was suggested that the residents could speak to the local landowners to see if there is a possibility of any areas. Should an area be found there would be ongoing annual costs for maintenance and inspections. The clerk will investigate Section 106 funding to see if there is anything available for Whittington Parish. It was noted there are good facilities in Matfen, with a new play area and cricket/football field.

- 1121.13 **ANY URGENT BUSINESS [FOR INFORMATION ONLY]**. Photographs of the Hallington War Memorial will be placed on the website together with the details of the names listed.
- 1121.14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.

Chairman