

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council; County Councillor Mrs Veronica Jones.

0122.01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr S Lawson

0122.02 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.** Nothing to declare.

0122.03 **MINUTES** of the meeting held on **23 November 2021** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

0122.04 **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 1121.05c 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. The clerk will arrange for the trees to be surveyed.

0122.05 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and more local issues.

- a) **Storm Arwen.** Clearance work following Storm Arwen continues at the County Council. All roads have been cleared however the storm has caused additional problems with flooding of roads. The issues with flooding at Hallington are being looked at by NCC. Cllr S Gregory reported this over 15 months ago. Staff shortages at NCC continue due to Covid 19. The County Council is carrying out a review on its response to Storm Arwen. Guy Opperman had held public meetings on the response to Storm Arwen. Anyone who has not received compensation can contact Guy Opperman's office who will follow this up.
- b) **Compensation payments.** Residents should have received compensation payments from Northern Powergrid. Payments are made automatically and anyone who has not received payment should ring 105 or go to the Northern Powergrid website. There are two levels of payment; one for power outage which is received automatically and the second is a welfare payment which you need to apply for.
- c) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund.** Northumberland County Council has allocated £70,000 to create a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund. The purpose of the fund is to enable community organisations to apply for grant funding to help them to take part in celebratory events to mark the Jubilee.
- d) **Northumberland County Council 2022-2023 Budget Consultation.** Residents are being encouraged to have their say on the County Council budget proposals for next year.

0122.06 **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. GRANTED
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

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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
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0122.07 FINANCE

- a) **Accounts for payment.** Payments were reviewed and it was AGREED to approve the items of expenditure on the list previously circulated.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE	VAT	NET	CHQ NO
Matfen & Ryal PCC	Grant aid	100.00		100.00	010823
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	160.00		160.00	010824
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	40.00		40.00	010825
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rental – January	15.00		15.00	010826
Mrs A Senior	Expenses – postages/travel	35.82		35.82	010827
Calico Internet Services	Website SSL certificate	28.80	4.80	24.00	010828

0122.08 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. Unfortunately, the Christmas Party did not go ahead due to the rising Covid cases. The next committee meeting is to be held on 19 January to discuss future plans.

0122.09 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND HIGHWAY MATTERS.

- a) **Signs.** It was noted that several signs had blown down during Storm Arwen. The Council is still carrying out repairs and clearance work following the storm.
- b) **Local Transport Plan.** It was noted that the Ryal road (within the Matfen Parish) is to be repaired via the LTP Programme. The Roses Bower road is also to be included.
- c) **Grass cutting.** Simon Ogg had marked up the village map with areas that he currently cuts. Several of these areas are not registered village green. Cllrs Gregory, Robson, Sadler to arrange a walk around the village to confirm the areas to cut.

0122.10 CORRESPONDENCE. All correspondence received since the November meeting was noted and had been circulated to all councillors by email.

- Northumberland County Council – Neighbourhood Plan Lessons Learnt. Cllr S Gregory had nothing to add to the comments as he felt that the Whittington Neighbourhood Plan had had no great influence on the planning applications submitted in Whittington Parish since the plan was made.
- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Fieldwork and Countryside Voices – Winter 2021
- Community Action Northumberland – CAN eNews monthly.
- LCR – Issue 4 2021.
- Northumberland Association of Local Councils – Survey of the relationship with the County Council.
- Citizens Advice Northumberland – Update January 2022.
- Guy Opperman MP – Storm Arwen Public Meetings.

0122.11 DOG FOULING. A new tenant has taken on the farm buildings by West Farm and is carrying out a lot of work in this area. A number of dogs are walked up this road, around the building and across the field. The tenant has experienced problems with people and dogs accessing the farm buildings. Problems are being experienced with people not respecting private land and having dogs off lead and letting them foul without picking it up. The tenant is to fence part of the footpath and will put up signs. Dog fouling is still a problem in Great Whittington village. Cllr S Gregory is to draft a notice to put on the Parish Council website and Cllr M Petrie will put on the Great Whittington Village Hall Facebook page and website.

0122.12 INDUCTION. Cllr S Gregory is to drive Cllr C Ross around the Parish to show the various areas around the Parish.

0122.13 DEFIBRILLATOR. All defibrillators now need to be registered on a national database called 'The Circuit'. The clerk will check to ensure that both the Great Whittington and Hallington defibrillators are registered.

0122.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 01 March 2022 at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.

Chairman