

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 22 MARCH 2022

(Subject to Council approval)

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

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

0322.01 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr W Robson

0322.02 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.** Nothing to declare.

0322.03 **MINUTES** of the meeting held on **18 January 2022** having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

0322.04 ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) **Storm Arwen Compensation.** Minute 0122.05b refers. It was noted that compensation payments had been received.
- b) **Signs.** Minute 0122.09a refers. Several road signs had collapsed including the sign at the junction of the Military Road and Great Whittington, the sign by the point-to-point junction and in Halton towards the end of the woodland. These will be reported to NCC.
- c) **Tree works.** Minute 0122.04c refers. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Robson for removing the elder tree and carrying out pruning. Cllr Gregory had cut down some branches that were interfering with some telephone wires however further works were still required. It was noted that the tree survey would be carried out once the trees start to leaf.
- d) **Hallington Road, Flooding.** Work had been carried out by NCC however it was felt that the work was not satisfactory. Cllr Mrs V Jones will speak to the officers involved.
- e) **Highway Debris.** The debris from the coach accident over 12 months ago had still not been removed from the highway and verge. There had been a lorry accident in the same area which had also left debris. Highways had confirmed this had been cleared however this is not the case.

0322.05 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and more local issues.

- a) **NCC Budget.** The budget had been agreed with no front line services being cut although Council Tax had been increased. £75m has been allocated for U and C road improvements/repairs..
- b) **NCC Local Plan.** The local plan is to be agreed next week by Full Council. The revised plan protects the green belt.

0322.06 **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
22/00870/FUL	Click Em In Farm, Great Whittington	Construction of extension to agricultural building – No objection

0322.07 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
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	160.00		160.00	010829
H M Revenue and Customs	PAYE	40.00		40.00	010830
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rental – March	15.00		15.00	010831
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel/stationery	80.74		80.74	010832
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Subscription 2022	36.00		36.00	010833
A C Lawson	Defibrillator – Hallington Electricity use 2020-2022	80.00		80.00	010834

0322.08 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. It was noted that Cllr C Ross had resigned from the committee. The Village Hall AGM is to take place on 14 June 2022 where a PC representative will be appointed.

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It was noted that Great Whittington Village Hall had applied to be an emergency centre during any further power outages or emergencies. Broadband had been installed in the Village Hall and will be live at midnight on 22 March 2022.

- b) **Jubilee Event.** A meeting is due to take place next week and a working party set up. It is unclear if this meeting will go ahead. Cllr M Petrie had applied to the Community Chest Fund for funding for the event to include children's entertainment, bouncy castle, crafts and bunting. It had proved difficult getting a singer as most people were already booked.
- c) **To consider replacement of litter bin at Carr Hill layby.** The litter bin at the Carr Hill layby had been destroyed by an HGV. NCC can replace the litter bin with a 240L wheelie bin and stand at a cost of £250 for the bin, post and installation. It was AGREED to go ahead and order the bin from NCC.

0322.09 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND HIGHWAY MATTERS.

- a) **Grit bin.** It was noted the grit bin in Great Whittington had been damaged and this had caused the neighbouring hedge to die back. It was agreed to remove the bin.
- b) **Signs.** A request from a resident for signs stating 'Caution – children playing – drive slowly had been received. NCC discourage these types of signs. Cllr V Jones advised that she had asked for a reduced speed limit in the village however this does not meet criteria as there is not enough traffic. A speed survey is to be requested in a different location. Cllr Mrs V Jones will chase this up.
- c) **Grass cutting.** Councillors had walked around the area with Simon Ogg and confirmed the areas to be cut. It was noted that the costs have increased as follows: £260 per cut (increased from £222.50). It was AGREED to accept the increase however further quotes will be obtained in November 2022 for 2023.

0322.10 CORRESPONDENCE. All correspondence received since the January meeting was noted and had been circulated to all councillors by email.

- Northumberland County Council – Post Storm Arwen update
- Northumberland County Council – Updates Storm Malik, Dudley and Eunice
- Age UK Northumberland – Update on services and Scan Awareness Support
- Northumberland County Council – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans Consultation.
- Clerks and Councils Direct – Issue 140 - March 2022
- Northumberland County Council – Local Plan – Inspector's Report
- Community Action Northumberland – CAN eNews
- NALC – weekly eNews

0322.11 THE QUEENS HEAD. It was noted that the Queens Head Pub is due to open soon and it had been suggested that a children's play area would be installed in the pub garden. The residents looking into an area for children to play were progressing with a local landowner. It is opened to have a space for ball games and potentially a community garden. The group are currently gauging community interest. A meeting is to be held next week to discuss further.

0322.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Chairman