

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM IN GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs W Robson, J Sadler and S Lawson  
**Also present:** Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council and County Councillor Mrs V Jones  
6 members of the public

- 922.01 **Apologies for absence** – Marion Petrie and Chrissy Ross  
922.02 **Declarations of Interests, if any** - None  
922.03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **19<sup>th</sup> July 2022** having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.  
922.04 **Items arising from the Minutes, not already on the agenda** - None  
922.05 **County Councillor Report.** County Councillor Mrs Veronica Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Whittington Parish.
- a) **Speed Survey.** After the initial survey, where it was thought to be in the wrong location, the survey will be redone across the road outside of the Queens Head. Cllr Mrs Jones is to pursue this.
  - b) **Road Signs.** Halton Shields ‘SLOW’ and crossing signs are still to be installed. It was noted that the sign at Matfen Piers directs drivers west to A19 instead of A69. This is to be rectified onsite.
  - c) **Hallington Mill.** ‘SLOW’ signs painted on the road have worn off and need to be refreshed.
  - d) **Community Plans.** NCC are putting plans together to assist Parishes in becoming Community Hubs. Phil Hinchcliffe is attending the Storm Arwen meeting tonight. He has applied for a grant of £4000 to install gas bottles/heater in the Village Hall.

922.06 **Planning Matters**

<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b>		
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
22/02699/TREECA	Village Green, Great Whittington	Works to trees in a conservation area: G4, G8, G10 – Ash remove trees and roots. G9 Common Lime – crown lift to 5m over road and remove broken branches in crown. <b>PERMIT</b>
22/01481/FUL	Hallington Mill	Change of use of existing hayshed to form multi-function events venue and proposed minor works at buildings to north and land to west of Hallington Mill.

- a) **Planning application number 22/01481/FUL.** Several residents attended the meeting to express concerns over the planning application for Hallington Mill. This section of the road is a cause for concern. The road markings have faded, and further signage is required. Hedges/trees need to be cut back to create better visibility. Cars are parked badly on the blind bends requiring cars to pull onto the opposite side of the road to get past. There is also an adverse camber on the road with horse riders and cyclists using the road on a regular basis. Cllr Mrs Jones advised that the road safety officer from NCC had carried out a site visit approx. 3 years ago and thought it was unlikely that any further action would be taken. She is to request a revisit from the Road Safety Officer to see if anything further can be done. Requests would include signs for ‘adverse camber’, ‘beware horses/cyclists’, SLOW sign to be reinstated on the road surface and reduce speed signs. The residents of the Mill would support any news signs and offered to put a technical case together for a reduced speed limit. Pruning work is to be carried out on the trees around the Mill and it was noted that the residents of the Mill grit along the road themselves.

922.07 **Finance/Administration**

- 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	DETAILS	NET AMOUNT	VAT	GROSS AMOUNT	REF
Woodsman Arboriculture	Arboricultural Management Plan	420.00	70.00	350.00	010850
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	163.20		163.20	010851
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	40.80		40.80	010852
Mrs A Senior	Expenses – postages/travel/stationery	32.70		32.70	010853
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rental – September 2022	15.00		15.00	010854
<b>Income</b>					
Northumberland CC	Precept payment	2500.00		2500.00	06.09.22

- 922.08 **Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.** A representative from the Parish Council is still needed on the Village Hall Committee. The solar project is progressing with the car park and heat pump system going in in the next month. NCC heritage have raised viewability problems with the solar panels which seem to revolve around double decker bus passengers being able to see them over the flat roof. The Village Hall Committee have responded with photographic evidence and it is going through but there will be a delay in placing the order so installation may not be until December. The Village Hall Committee had submitted an application for £4000 to Northern Powergrid for gas bottle heaters and hobs on the basis that with the panels the Village Hall could provide internet, mobile charging, entertainment, tv, and lighting and with a temporary heating system plus a small generator the Village Hall could provide a long term warm hub in emergency. *Update: The application of £4000 had been successful.* Residents had met with the landowner to discuss the community field however there is nothing further to report.
- 922.09 **To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.**
- Winter routes. Cllr Mrs V Jones is to check that Great Whittington is on the gritting route as the village is on the service and school bus routes.
  - Green Dog Walkers Scheme. This is a NCC initiative. For enforcement action to be taken, all incidents of dog fouling should be reported to NCC via the website. Cllr Mrs Jones advised that she may be able to fund dog waste bag dispensers in the villages.
- 922.10 **To consider the Tree Survey report and agree any tree works required.** Cllrs S Gregory and W Robson had inspected all the trees. Ash dieback is event in all of the ash trees. An email had been received from a resident of Great Whittington expressing concerns over the removal of Ash trees around his property. Although Ash dieback is evident in this tree it is not severe therefore no action will be taken on this tree however it will be monitored. Two ash trees need to be removed (G5 and G10) plus one on the back lane and Cllr S Gregory will meet with the tree surgeon on site. The trees along Southlands belong to the houses and therefore no action will be taken. The tree survey will be uploaded onto the website for information.
- 922.11 **Correspondence/Information items** All correspondence received since the July meeting had been noted and most had been circulated to all councillors by email.
- NALC – Weekly News
  - Community Action Northumberland – CAN eNews – Monthly
  - Northumberland County Council – Free Tree Giveaway
  - Office of Guy Opperman – Northern Powergrid Resilience Funding
  - Woodsman Arboricultural – Tree survey and report
  - Northumberland County Council – Community Resilience Event Invitation – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- 922.12 **Any other urgent business as allowed by the Chairman/Agenda items for next meeting.**
- a) Notice board at Hallington is still to be installed.
  - b) Matfen PCC. A request for a contribution towards the grass cutting in the churchyards had been received. This will be an agenda item for the November meeting.
  - c) Grit bin. Cllr W Robson had kindly removed the grit bin from Great Whittington village into the Village Hall car park. The Village Hall now need the bin to be removed. Cllr W Robson will arrange to do this.
- 922.13 **Date of next meeting** – The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 22 November 2022** at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.