

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30PM IN GREAT
WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

0923.01 **Apologies for absence** – Cllr W Robson

0923.02 **To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest** – None

0923.03 **To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd July 2023.** The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record.

0923.04 **Items arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2023.**

- a) Road Sign. Minute 0723.09a refers. The road sign is still lying on the village green. The clerk will contact Highways, NCC and ask them to remove it.
- b) Hallington Mill. Minute 0723.09b refers. The road markings have still not been done.
- c) 20mph speed limit. Minute 0723.09c refers. The council is still waiting for the results of the speed survey and the update on the possibility of a 20mph limit through Great Whittington.

0923.05 **Planning matters**

Reference Number	Address	Description
23/03043/FUL	Gardeners Cottage, Bingfield	Change of use of residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to Children's Home (Use Class C2) WITHDRAWN
23/02740/FUL	Lane House, Bingfield	Change of use/conversion of barn into residential dwelling and change of use of land to residential curtilage
23/03020/FUL	Long Byre, Great Whittington	Re-submission: Erection of an axillary building to serve the principal dwelling of Long Byres to create Home Office, Garden Room and store
23/03138/FUL	Wildflower Shepherds Hut, North East of Sewage Works, Great Whittington	Retrospective: change of use from agricultural land to allow stationing of shepherds hut for holiday letting with parking and landscaping
23/03139/FUL	Duck Pond Cabin, North East of Quarry House, Great Whittington	Retrospective: Change of use from agricultural land to allow stationing of shipping container for holiday let with parking, landscaping and solar array
23/01659/FUL	Land South of High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington	Proposed vehicular access. GRANTED
23/01168/LBC	Land at North East of High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington	Listed building consent: Conversion of agricultural buildings into 4no residential units. GRANTED
23/02711/VARYCO	Land North East of High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington	Removal of conditions 15 (ground gas) and 16 (ground gas) pursuant to planning permission 19/03726/FUL

0923.06 **Finance/Administration**

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was noted that Simon Ogg had still one more cut to carry out on the grass. He had suggested an additional cut due to the unseasonably warm weather. It was AGREED to an extra cut at a cost of £260.

Payee	Details	Net	Vat	Gross	Reference
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	184.00		184.00	010892
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	46.00		46.00	010893
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel	21.70		21.70	010894
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – September 2023	15.00		15.00	010895
PCC of Matfen	Grant aid 2023	100.00		100.00	010896
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath	43.34	6.66	50.00	010897
Income					
Northumberland CC	Precept	3000.00		3000.00	08.09.23

0923.07 **Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment**

- b) Village Hall.** An update had been provided by the Village Hall committee. The coronation bench, which was purchased with a grant from the Parish Council had been installed outside the Village Hall. In recent months, the roof structures of the Village Hall have been treated for woodworm with a 25-year warranty and the two flat roof areas have been replaced. The hall has been fully repainted, inside and out, except for the unused upstairs. The solar PV project is now complete with the installation of the batteries. The three-phase smart meter is still to be installed and until that is done the installation of an EV charging point cannot be progressed.
- c) The Little Free Library.** The Village Hall committee had decided not to progress the little free libraries purchased by Cllr M Petrie as they had decided that a more suitable library would be in the unused store beside the toilet area. It would be inside allowing better protection of books and all year-round access. It would be accessible without the hall being open and it would be easier to maintain, causing no disruption, hold more books and would be more permanent than a wooden structure. Cllr M Petrie advised that the little free libraries would be constructed and decorated and ready for World Book Day which is to be held on 8 March 2024. A consultation had been undertaken pre covid and the location of the Village Hall Garden agreed however an alternative location will need to be found.
- d) Trees and the Village Green.** It had been agreed that the area which had been created as a wildflower garden on the village green had become completely overgrown and needs to be tidied up. Cllr S Gregory proposed that the area should be cleared, and work carried out to the 10 trees which had been detailed in the tree survey which includes crown lifting to 3m and the ash tree crown lifted to 5m over the road. The ivy and suckers will be cut away. Once the area is cleared the grass cutting contractor will be able to strim the area and cut on a regular basis. Other suggestions included log pile, bug hotel, hedgehog hotel and bird boxes. The work would be mainly carried out by Cllrs S Gregory and W Robson. It was AGREED to proceed

with the work. One of the benches in the village, which is barely used, will be relocated to the area once it has been cleared.

0923.08 **Councillors Reports and Highways Matters.**

- a) **Ash Trees.** Concerns were expressed over the condition of the Ash trees on the Roses Bower Road. The clerk will contact Northumberland County Council expressing the Parish Council's concerns.
- b) **Parking on the village green.** It was noted that another car had been parking on the village green. Cllr J Sadler will monitor the situation.
- c) **Bingfield Road.** Northumberland County Council has only partly filled a large pothole on the Bingfield Road. Cllr S Gregory had reported this.

0923.09 **Correspondence.**

- a) Northumberland County Council – Free Tree Scheme. Northumberland County Council is once again offering free tree saplings to community groups, parish councils and schools. Cllr S Gregory will look into this.,
- b) **Parish of Whittington (Public Footpath No 11) Diversion Order 2023.** The diversion of Public Footpath No 11 was confirmed on 1st September 2023.

0923.10 **To consider request from PCC of Matfen for financial support.** It was agreed to make a contribution of £100 towards the repairs to the churchyard in Matfen.

0923.11 **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7.30pm.

Signed as an accurate record _____