

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM IN GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE
HALL**

PRESENT: Cllrs S Gregory, W E Robson and J Sadler.

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs V Jones and Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council

1123.01 **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs C Ross and M Petrie

1123.02 **To receive Councillors Declarations of Interest** – None

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

1123.04 **Items arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023.**

- a) **Planning Applications.** Minute 0923.05 refers. The Parish Council had responded to the planning applications for the Wildflower Shepherds Hut and Duck Pond Cabin stating that they had no objection to the applications however a condition should be placed on the properties to be used for holiday accommodation only.

1123.05 **Planning matters** – None.

1123.06 **Finance/Administration**

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was AGREED to accept and approve the payments on the list below.
- b) **To agree draft budget and set precept for 2024-2025.** After discussion, it was AGREED to levy a precept of £6500 on Northumberland County Council.

Payee	Details	Net	Vat	Gross	Reference
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	184.00		184.00	010898
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	46.00		46.00	010899
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – September 2023	15.00		15.00	010900
Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription 2024	28.80		28.80	010901

1123.07 **County Councillor’s Report**

- a) **Accident.** It was noted that there had been a fatality at the top of Beukley Bank on the A68. A resident had asked for improved signage at the junction 3 years ago. There have been several accidents in that area. The police are involved and NCC will await the police report before they take any action.
- b) **No. 74 bus.** Go Northeast are on strike for 12 weeks and there has been no replacement service for the No 74 route. Cllr Mrs V Jones had contacted the officer at NCC who had said they would look into it.
- c) **Local Transport Plan.** A monthly report is now received by the County Councillor advising on maintenance, LTP and member funding. In the current LTP, the pedestrian warning sign should be installed at Halton Shield soon and work is due to start on the Maffen Piers Junction. The list of LTP proposals for 2024/25 is still in draft however the following is included; carriageway resurfacing at Halton Shield; Great Whittington to Military Road; Bingfield to Hallington Mill surface dressing.
- d) **Members scheme.** Cllr Mrs V Jones advised that she still had money left in her members’ funding for any capital projects.

1123.08 **Great Whittington Village Hall and the Village Environment**

- a) **Grit Bin.** A discussion took place around the damaged grit bin outside of the Village Hall. Cllr Mrs V Jones will fund a new grit bin to replace the damaged one from her member funding.
- b) **Free Trees.** NCC is giving away free trees again this year. Unfortunately, there is nowhere suitable for the free trees, however the Parish Council will source a couple from elsewhere.

1123.09 **To receive Councillors Reports and Highways Matters**

- a) **Halton Shields.** An email had been received from a resident expressing concern over road safety at Halton Shield, in particular the speed of vehicles and overtaking at or near junctions. County Councillor Mrs V Jones advised that a report had been produced last year following a road safety assessment of the Military Road which included Halton Shield. Mrs Jones is to forward the link to the report to the Clerk for information. It was noted that a speed survey had been carried out and there was found to be no issue. The poor road surface and lack of road markings was also reported by the resident. Residents had requested a lorry ban on this section of road however the Military Road is the emergency route for A69 so this would not be possible. Guy Opperman and the police had met with residents of Halton Shield last week.
- b) **Northumberland Open Space Assessment.** Northumberland County Council is working with Ethos Environmental Planning to undertake an assessment about how much and what type of open space and outdoor recreation facilities are required to meet the needs of local people. Cllr J Sadler offered to complete this on behalf of the Parish Council after consulting with local residents.
- c) **Grass cutting.** The grass cutting contractor had agreed to keep the cost per cut the same in 2024 (£260 per cut) if the Parish Council agreed to an additional 2 cuts per season. After discussion, this was agreed.

1123.10 **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Signed as an accurate record _____