

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 16th JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM
IN GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

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

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

The Parish Council were saddened to hear of the death of Willie Patterson who died on 16 December 2023. Willie served on the Parish Council many years ago. Our thoughts and condolences are with Willie's friends and family during this sad time.

0124.01 Apologies for absence – Cllrs C Ross. It was noted that Cllr C Ross had sent her resignation to the Chairman as she has now moved out of the area.

Northumberland County Council will be notified and the statutory notice will be displayed for 14 days. After this time, if a by-election has not been called, the Parish Council may co-opt to fill the vacancy.

0124.02 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest – None

0124.03 To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th November 2023. The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record.

0124.04 Items arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2023.

a) Grit Bin. There had been a delay in placing the order for the grit bin however Councillor Mrs Jones has now submitted the paperwork.

0124.05 County Councillor's Report. Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and Whittington Parish.

a. Roads. Nationally potholes are taking over. Northumberland County Council is doing its best to keep on top of them, however the weather is taking it's toll. 24-hour potholes are temporarily filled. They are then put on a list to be cut out and patched properly. Fix My Street works well to report potholes and logs all areas to build up a picture of the worst roads. The work on the Roses Bower Road should be carried out by the end of January/beginning of February 2024.

b. The pedestrian crossing at Halton Shield is waiting for permission from Historic England.

c. Budget. NCC is currently finalising it's budget for the coming year. They are looking to protect front line services, and this should be finalised by the end of February 2024.

d. The Northumberland Line, which runs from Ashington to Newcastle should be open by Summer 2024.

e. Healthy Neighbourhoods. NCC is working on healthy neighbourhoods which, when reviewing planning applications, they look at infrastructure, local services, green spaces etc.

0124.06 Planning applications

Reference Number	Address	Description
23/03665/FUL	Land west of Dewlaw Farm, Matfen	Retrospective: Stationing of mobile home for agricultural worker with solar array and battery storage shed
23/04507/FUL 23/04508/LBC	North Farm, Hallington, Newcastle upon Tyne	Corner infill extension partially in place of existing and detached garage.
23/02740/FUL	Lane House, Bingfield	Change of use/conversion of barn into residential dwelling and change of use of land to residential curtilage (part retrospective) GRANTED

124.07 Finance/Administration

- a. **Accounts for payment.** It was AGREED to accept and approve the payments on the list below.

Payee	Details	Net	Vat	Gross	Ref
NE Groundcare Ltd	Grass cutting 2023	2860.00		2860.00	010902
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Subscription 2024	36.00		36.00	010903
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	184.00		184.00	010904
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	46.00		46.00	010905
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – January 24	15.00		15.00	010906
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel	46.95		46.95	010907

0124.08 Great Whittington Village Hall and the Village Environment

- a. Village Green. Cllrs Gregory and Robson will start to clear the overgrown section of the village green, weather permitting.
- b. It was reported the Village Hall Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair had been very well attended.

0124.09 Play Area. Following on from the Community Field proposal and consultation, a proposal has been made to the Parish Council to install a small play area on part of the Village Green in Great Whittington. The Parish Council agreed to this in principle. The equipment would need to be checked on a regular basis and an annual inspection carried out by an independent company. Funding would need to be obtained from grants. The clerk will check with Northumberland County Council to see if there are any available funds in the S106 Housing Developer Fund for Whittington Parish. The next step is to obtain feedback from the neighbouring houses.

0124.10. To receive Councillors Reports and Highways Matters

- a. Potholes. There are 3 potholes in Hallington and 1 on Bingfield Bank. Cllr S Lawson will report these via Fix My Street.
- b. Public Right of Way. There is a gate that needs to be repaired on one of the public rights of way. The gate post is rotten. Cllr M Petrie will report this to Northumberland County Council.
- c. Smell. Several residents have noticed a strong smell of fuel in the village near to the Old Blacksmiths Shop. Northumbrian Water came out to investigate however didn't find anything. Cllr S Gregory is still waiting for a callback from Northumberland County Council.

0124.11 Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Signed as an accurate record _____