

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM IN
GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance: Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council

3 members of the public.

324.01 Apologies for absence – Cllr S Lawson and County Councillor Mrs V Jones.

324.02 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest – None

324.03 To consider co-option to fill one vacancy. It was proposed by Cllr S Gregory, seconded by Cllr J Sadler and RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Dr Bill Brittain to the Parish Council. Dr Brittain signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council.

324.04 To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th January 2024. The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record.

324.05 Items arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024.

- a) Smell. The source of the smell had been identified. It was found to be a leaking oil tank. Concerns were expressed over the clean-up.
- b) Tree works. Work is still to be carried out on the overgrown areas of the Village Green. This will be done by Cllrs S Gregory and W E Robson once the weather improves.

324.06 County Councillor's Report. Cllr Mrs V Jones was unable to attend the meeting.

324.07 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. REFUSED
24/00304/FUL	South Clarewood Farm, Great Whittington	Full planning permission for conversion of agricultural buildings to form five new dwellings, including demolition of structures, access road to north and associated parking and landscaping. (No objection)
23/02740/FUL	Lane House, Bingfield	Two storey extension to east gable. (No objection)
23/02138/FUL	Wildflower Shepherds Hut, Land North East of Sewage Works, Great Whittington	Retrospective: change of use from agricultural land to allow stationing of shepherd's hut for holiday letting with parking and landscaping. REFUSED

324.08 Finance/Administration

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

Payee	Details	Net	Vat	Gross	Ref
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	184.00		184.00	010908
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	46.00		46.00	010909
C Bryce	Defibrillator batteries	26.11	5.22	31.33	010910
Spanglefish (Plexus Media Ltd)	Website hosting package	65.00	13.00	78.00	010911
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – March 2024	15.00		15.00	010912
Information Commissioners Office (ICO)	Data registration fee	35.00		35.00	DD

324.09 Great Whittington Village Hall and the Village Environment

- a. To consider Defibrillator training. An email had been received by the Village Hall committee requesting defibrillator/CPR training in the Village Hall. The Parish Council AGREED to support any fundraising event to fund any first aid training. The British Heart Foundation have free online training however face to face training can prove very costly. It was suggested the North East Ambulance Service will carry out free defibrillator familiarisation sessions to any organisation who has purchased a defibrillator from them. The clerk will investigate the possibility of a session from the NE Ambulance Service.
- b. Village Hall. Phil Hinchcliffe gave an update on the PV system in the hall which is working well. 3 phase smart meter is still to be installed. Community Action Northumberland had suggested to the Village Hall committee last year it should enter the Village Hall's Inspiration Awards, sponsored by the main village hall insurer, Allied Westminster. The Inspiration Awards reward three village halls which have made considerable improvements to their halls to benefit their communities. Great Whittington Village Hall was awarded a prize of £1000 for third place out of 150 national entries. They are looking to carry out major works in the garden.
The coffee mornings continue to go well.
It was noted that the AGM will be held in June.

324.10 Play Area. Cllr J Sadler had received an update on the proposed play area. Unfortunately, there had been little support from the village and some objections to the proposals. It was therefore AGREED not to pursue the matter any further.

324.11 To receive Councillors Reports and Highways Matters

- a. Potholes. There are 2 potholes on the Great Whittington to Matfen road. The clerk will check to see if these have been reported on Fix My Street.
- b. Road signage. The signage at Hallington Mill has still not been installed. The clerk will contact Cllr Mrs V Jones to chase this up. There is a zig zag sign which has collapsed at Halton Red House and the chevron signs on the roundabout at the Errington Arms are also damaged. The clerk will check to see if these have been reported on Fix My Street and submit a report if not already reported.

324.12 Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 19:00.

Signed as an accurate record _____