

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
23rd JULY 2024 AT 7.30PM IN GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs J Sadler, W Robson and Dr W Brittain
County Councillor Mrs V Jones and 2 members of the public.

The Parish Council were saddened to hear of the death of Ed Gillam on 16th July 2024. Ed was a Parish Councillor from 2019 – 2021. His funeral will be held on 1st August at 14:30 at St Andrew’s Church in Corbridge.

0724.01 **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs S Lawson and M Petrie

0724.02 **Declarations of Interests.** None

0724.03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **21st May 2024** having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

0724.04 **Items arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2024.** None.

0724.05 **County Councillors Report.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and the Parish of Whittington.

- a) Children’s Services. Northumberland County Council’s Children’s Services have been rated outstanding overall by Ofsted. It was noted that 95% of schools in Northumberland have been rated good or outstanding. The last school in Northumberland that was rated inadequate has just been rated good by Ofsted.
- b) Pot holes, Gullies and Verges. The roads are still in a terrible state. The Leader of the Council has been speaking to the staff. NCC is currently 2 weeks behind on verges.
- c) Grit Bin. Cllr Mrs V Jones advised that the grit bin will be replaced in September once NCC has supplies of grit to fill them.

0724.06 **Planning Matters**

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
23/03655/FUL	Land West of Dewlaw Farm, Matfen	Retrospective: Stationing of mobile home for agricultural worker with solar array and battery storage shed. APPEAL
24/02090/FUL	Land East of Great Whittington Village	Erection of self-build agricultural workers dwelling and garage
24/02381/FUL	Land at East Farm, Great Whittington	Erection of agricultural building

0724.07 **Finance/Administration**

- a) Accounts for payment. Payments were reviewed and it was RESOLVED to approve the items of expenditure on the list, previously circulated.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT					
PAYEE	DETAILS	NET AMOUNT	VAT	GROSS AMOUNT	REF
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	224.00		224.00	010921
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	56.00		56.00	010922

Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	29.20		29.20	010923
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – July 2024	15.00		15.00	010924
Hostworld Internet Ltd	Website domain renewal	24.00	4.00	20.00	010925
Income					
Northern Powergrid	Wayleave Payment	15.22		15.22	10.06.24

0724.08 Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.

- a) Village Hall. The Chairman of the Village Hall committee gave an update on the Village Hall. The electricity meter will be changed to a smart meter in August and then the solar panel project will be complete. The Village Hall is currently looking into installing an EV charging point. The Village Hall is currently set up as an Emergency Hub however they are looking to change this to a Warm Hub. This will not change what they do however if they are a Warm Hub they will be entitled to statutory help. The committee is currently looking into live streaming National Theatre productions.

0724.09 To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.

- a) It was noted that the hedge opposite the Black Bull Pub is spreading across the pavement causing people to walk in the road to pass.
- b) Hallington Mill. No action had been taken by NCC at Hallington Mill. The road is still flooding and there is no signage or road markings. Cllr Mrs V Jones had spoken to the NCC Officer concerned who advised that the work had been carried out with regard to the flooding issue. Cllr Mrs V Jones to follow this up.

0724.10 To consider priorities for inclusion in the Local Transport Plan Programme 2025-26.

- a) A68 Road Safety. Cllrs S Gregory and W E Robson attended a meeting last week to discuss the fatalities on a section of the A68. Cllr W E Robson will look into this. It was flagged several years ago the need for extra signage on the Beukley junction. There had been a fatality in November 2023 and earlier this year. NCC Highways need to look at this issue again. Double white lines had been requested at Little Whittington however this needs to be revisited by Highways. Police have control over the actions on the highway when there is a fatality. They will advise NCC what is required. County Councillor Mrs V Jones agreed to commit some of her members allowance to fund signage and this will be added as a number one priority to the Local Transport Plan Programme for 2025-26.
- b) 20mph limit. Concerns were expressed over the lack of pavement and speeds through the village especially when children are walking to get the school bus. This had been investigated previously and NCC advise that Great Whittington does not meet the criteria for a 20mph limit. Cllr Mrs V Jones advised that she could fund this through her member's allowance.

0724.10 Date of next meeting – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.