

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM IN GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs M Petrie and Dr W Brittain (Cllr S Lawson arrived at 7.45pm)  
5 members of the public.

0924.01 **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs W E Robson and J Sadler. Cllr J Sadler had moved from the area and tendered his resignation. The Elections department at Northumberland County Council will be notified and the statutory notice displayed.

0924.02 **Declarations of Interests.** Cllr S Lawson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 0924.06a Hallington Hall Woodlands as he rents the land.

0924.03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024** having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

0924.04 **Items arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.**

- a) Hedge. It was noted that the hedge opposite the Queens Head had been cut back.
- b) Hallington Mill. There has still been no action taken at Hallington Mill. The road is still flooding. Gravel is washing into the road making it dangerous for cyclists. Cllr Mrs V Jones will be contacted for an update and if necessary, this will be added to the LTP request.

0924.05 **County Councillors Report.** No report available.

0924.06 **Planning Matters**

- a) Planning Applications. Hallington Hall Woodlands. Email received from Galbraiths advising that they are drawing up a woodland management plan which will be submitted to the Forestry Commission for approval. The Parish Council had no objection to the plans.
- b) Planning Decisions.

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
23/03138/FUL	Wildflower Shepherds Hut, Great Whittington	Retrospective: Change of use from agricultural land to allow stationing of shepherds hut for holiday letting with parking and landscaping. <b>APPEAL</b>
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. <b>APPEAL</b>

0924.07 **Finance/Administration**

- a) Accounts for payment. Payments were reviewed and it was RESOLVED to approve the items of expenditure on the list, previously circulated.
- b) To consider registering for Internet Banking. It was RESOLVED to register for internet banking with the Bank of Scotland. The registration forms were signed and will be sent to Bank of Scotland. As Cllr J Sadler has resigned from the Parish Council, he will be removed as a signatory from the bank account. It was RESOLVED to add Cllr W E Robson as a signatory.

<b>ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT</b>					
<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>NET AMOUNT</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>GROSS AMOUNT</b>	<b>REF</b>
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	224.00		224.00	010926
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	56.00		56.00	010927
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel	44.90		44.90	010928
Amazon	Printer ink	49.69	8.28	41.41	010929
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – September 2024	15.00		15.00	010930
S R Gregory	Supplies to install the Little Libraries	81.47		81.47	010931
<b>Income</b>					
Northumberland CC	Precept payment	3250.00		3250.00	06.09.24

**0924.08 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 and the usage over the coming months. He advised that the Village Hall is proud to have been accepted to screen the National Theatre Productions. The smart meter is still waiting to be installed. The installation may be postponed due to the Village Hall being 2000kWh in credit. Unfortunately, the EV charging point cannot progress however 2 quotes have been obtained and 3 sources of grant funding identified. The Village Hall is not progressing with the Warm Hub initiative as there is no real need in the area. The committee is looking to improve the initiative of an Emergency Hub. A grant of £3400 has been applied for.
- b) Little Free Libraries. The Little Free Libraries are now installed and are being well used. Thanks to Cllr W E Robson for installing them.

Cllr S Lawson entered the meeting.

**0924.09 To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.**

- a) Gulleys. It was noted that the gulleys had been cleared in Great Whittington.

**0924.10 To consider priorities for inclusion in the Local Transport Plan Programme 2025-26.**

It was RESOLVED to send the following requests to NCC for inclusion in the LTP Programme 2025-26.

- a) A68 Road Safety. It was AGREED that road safety measures on the A68 would be submitted as the top priority for inclusion in the LTP. At the Beukley junction, the blind summit means there is very little time for a vehicle driving south on the A68 to see someone pulling onto the A68 (either to go south or crossing the road to go north) even if the vehicle approaching the blind summit is observing the 60mph speed limit. The Parish Council and residents would like either Northumberland County Council or the Police to carry out a study to calculate what the safe stopping distances are in this area and to install measures to ensure safety. Cllr S Gregory will liaise with the clerk to submit the responses based on the following: warning electronic sign advising of a dangerous junction or slow down; painted SLOW rumble strips on both sides of the junction; no overtaking double white lines from Little Whittington over the hilltop to Grottington; new 'dangerous turnings, multiple casualties' type signage

from Errington roundabout north for about 4 miles and the same heading south.

- b) 20mph zone. 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. It was therefore AGREED to request the installation of a pavement to provide safe access around the corner (from Hill House Close to just past Town Farm Cottage. It was AGREED to ask Cllr Mrs V Jones to fund Vehicle Activated signs through her member's allowance.

0924.11 **Parish Council Facebook Page.** Cllr M Petrie suggested the Parish Council should have a Facebook page to communicate with the parishioners. It was also suggested that an email distribution list should be created. The Village Hall have an email distribution list of 142 emails however permission would be needed before this information could be shared. It was RESOLVED for Cllr M Petrie to set up a Parish Council Facebook page and she will liaise with the Village Hall Committee regarding the email distribution list.

0924.12 **Date of next meeting** – The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024** at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.