

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 22ND JULY 2025 AT 7.30PM IN GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs H Lewins, W Robson and Dr W Brittain

0725.01 **Apologies for absence** received and accepted from Cllrs A Lawson and M Petrie.

0725.02 **Declarations of interest.** None

0725.03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **20th May 2025** having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

0725.04 **Items arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2025.**

- a) A68 Safety Issue. Minute 0525.14a refers. Cllr S Gregory had not received a response from Paul Jones, NCC and the Freedom of Information response was unhelpful. The response in the police report was weak even though data from the speed survey found some vehicles travelling between 60-90 mph northbound.
- b) Planning application 25/01079/COU – Change of use to caravan park. It was noted that this application had been removed from the planning portal.

0725.05 **County Councillors Report.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Whittington Parish and Northumberland County Council.

- a) Northumberland County Council has a new council following the election on 1st May 2025. There are 30 brand new councillors from 69. The majority of these new councillors being Reform. No party has a majority however the council needs to run so the parties are working together.
- b) Member reporting. There is a new way for members to report issues which appear to be working well. Issues can also be reported on Fix My Street.
- c) Area Councils. The area councils were based on the old district councils however they have not been working and there have been no members of the public attending. A new community partnership way of working has been developed engaging the Parish Councils, Police, Health Services and the Voluntary Sector to promote community engagement. The meetings will move around the area. Strategic planning will still cover the whole of the country however the planning committees will be based on North, South East and West Areas.

0725.06 **Planning Matters**

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
25/01501/FUL	Land West of Village Hall, Great Whittington	Application for 11no dwellings. <i>Comments sent.</i>
25/02243/VARYCO	Agricultural building at west of South Clarewood Farm, Great Whittington	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 24/00304/FUL in order to reconfigure the internal layouts of units 3, 4 and 5 remove the connecting extension and provide garages. <i>No objection sent.</i>
25/02238/FUL	East Side Farm, Bingfield	Single storey porch extension to southwest elevation and single storey utility extension to north east elevation. <i>No objection sent.</i>

25/01705/VARYCO	Land at North East of High Baulk Farm, Great Whittington	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 23/01158/LBC to allow a minor amendment to the approved access driveway position (amended description) GRANTED
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0725.07 Finance/Administration

- Accounts for payment. Payments were reviewed and it was RESOLVED to approve the items of expenditure on the list, previously circulated.
- Bank of Scotland Internet Banking. Unfortunately, Bank of Scotland have still not actioned the application for internet banking.

PAYEE	DETAILS	NET AMOUNT	VAT	GROSS AMOUNT	REF
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	240.00		240.00	10964
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	60.00		60.00	10965
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	28.80		28.80	10966
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – July 2025	15.00		15.00	10967
Hostworld Internet Ltd	Website domain renewal	23.40	4.68	28.08	10968
Wel Medical Ltd	Replacement defib pads	62.65	12.53	75.18	10969
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	4.75		4.75	DD
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	4.25		4.25	DD
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	8.67		8.67	DD
Income					
Northern Powergrid	Wayleave	15.22		15.22	28.05.25

0725.08 Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.

- Village Hall.** The hall is well supported and coffee mornings have been going well. National Theatre Live showings continue.
- Vehicle Activated Signs** appear to be working well. The branches had been trimmed back from the sign near to the Village Hall. Thanks to Cllr W E Robson for removing the branches etc.

0725.09 To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.

- Hallington Mill. Cllr S Gregory had spoken to the landowner who advised that he had had no contact from NCC. Cllr Mrs V Jones will confirm with NCC. It was noted that the road markings had still not been done.
- Bins. There have been problems regarding bin collection in some areas. Cllr Mrs V Jones will query with the refuse collection team
- Potholes. The road between Great Whittington and Matfen is in poor condition. During flooding, the potholes are covered.
- Alncom. Cllr W E Robson and S Gregory had met with Alncom. They are carrying out exploratory work, still looking to install in Great Whittington but no longer installing a new cabinet.
- Bywell Parish Council Chairman had contacted Parish Council Chairman in the area to arrange a meeting to see if there are common complaints and to see if there are areas where Parish Councils could assist each other directly. This meeting will be arranged in late September.

0725.10 Date of next meeting – The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 23 September 2025** at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.