

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM IN GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Gregory, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs W Robson, Mrs A Lawson, H Lewins, Prof M Petrie and Dr W Brittain

0126.01 **Apologies for absence** were received from County Councillor Mrs V Jones.

0126.02 **Declarations of interest.** None

0126.03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **18<sup>th</sup> November 2025**, having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

0126.04 **Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

- a) Hallington Mill. Minute 1125.04a refers. The road markings have now been completed.
- b) Parish Council Laptop and Phone. Minute 1125.11 refers. Matfen Parish Council have purchased a laptop for the clerk. All documents/information will be stored separately in the cloud.
- c) Tree survey. Minute 1125.04f refers, The tree survey should have been carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The report will follow, in due course.

0126.05 **County Councillors Report.** Cllr Mrs V Jones was unable to attend the meeting.

0126.06 **Planning Matters**

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
25/03726/FUL	Wildflower Shepherds Hut, North East of Sewage Works, Great Whittington	Retrospective: Change of use from agricultural land to the stationing of a shepherds hut for holiday letting with parking and landscaping <b>GRANTED</b>
25/04155/FUL	1 Bingfield Cottages, Bingfield	Standalone garden room and store. <b>GRANTED</b>
25/01501/FUL	Land West of Village Hall, Great Whittington	Application for 11no dwellings (amended layout 18.12.25)
25/04155/FUL	1 Bingfield Cottages, Bingfield	Stand alone garden room and store. <b>GRANTED</b>

1125.07 **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 draft budget and agree precept for the financial year 2026-27. After discussion, it was RESOLVED to set a precept of £7500.00 for the coming financial year. No change from 2025-26.

PAYEE	DETAILS	GROSS	VAT	NET	REF
NE Groundcare Ltd	Grass cutting 2025	3120.00	520.00	2600.00	010981
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	7.25		7.25	DD
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	4.75		4.75	DD
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	240.00		240.00	010982
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	60.00		60.00	010983
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	32.23	0.82	33.05	010984
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual subscription	37.60		37.60	010985
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – January 2026	15.00		15.00	010986
Plexus Media Ltd (Spanglefish)	Website hosting	65.00	13.00	78.00	010987

20 January 2026

Campaign to Protect Rural England	Subscription 2026	36.00		36.00	010988
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**0126.08 Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.**

- a) Village Hall. The Village Hall has spent approx. £3k on maintenance and equipment this year however there will be a surplus made on the year. The committee has applied to the Ray Windfarm Fund for 2 batteries for the solar panels and a decision is expected at the end of next week.

**0126.09 To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.**

- a) Trees on the village green. Concerns were raised over a couple of trees on the village green where the branches are overhanging the road. The Parish Council will defer any work until the tree survey has been received.
- b) Bow Bridge pothole. This had been reported on 'Fix My Street' however no action had been taken. This will be reported again
- c) Pavement outside the Queens Head. There is an area at the entrance to the pub carpark that is raised and needs some attention. Cllr W Brittain will take a photograph and send it to Cllr Mrs V Jones to see if any action can be taken.
- d) Road surface. The road surface at Hallington High Farm road end is in poor condition.
- e) Gritting. Cllr Gregory had spoken to NCC regarding gritting. He has their direct contact details. NCC does not automatically grit the bus routes and need to be pushed to carry this out. The Parish Council will think about what is needed in the Autumn and contact them.

**0126.10 To discuss grass cutting contract for the 2026 season.** It was noted that the price per cut for the 2026 season will increase from £260 to £300 + VAT per cut. It was RESOLVED to accept the increase and continue with the current contractor.

**0126.11 Town and Parish Council's Conference – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026.** The Town and Parish Council Spring Conference will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March at County Hall, Morpeth. The details were noted.

**0126.12. Dogs and livestock.** Concerns were expressed over some dog owners who do not keep their dogs under control around farms and livestock also leaving gates open and not cleaning up after their dog. The law is changing in March 2026 and The [Dogs \(Protection of Livestock\) \(Amendment\) Act 2025](#) strengthens farm animal protection by increasing penalties for livestock worrying (unlimited fines), granting police power to detain dogs posing risks. Under the new law the dog does not need to make physical contact with animals to commit an offence. Chasing or disturbing livestock can cause harm. This updates the 1953 Act with modern tools like DNA evidence, covers incidents on roads/paths, and requires owners to keep dogs on leads near livestock. It was agreed to promote this on the Parish Council facebook page and website. The Village Hall will also put a post on their Facebook page.

**0126.13 Date of next meeting –** The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10th March 2026** at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.