

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
10th MARCH 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

In attendance: County Councillor Mrs V Jones, Mrs Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council and 1 member of the public.

0326.01 **Apologies for absence.** None.

0326.02 **Declarations of interest.** None

0326.03 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **20th January 2026**, having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

0326.04 **Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2026.**

- a) Bow Bridge. Minute 0126.09b refers. The pothole has been repaired. completed.
- b) Dogs and livestock. Minute 0126.12 refers. Issues are still ongoing. It was noted that bags of dog poo are being left along the back road. It was **AGREED** to keep pushing the message out on the Facebook page.
- c) Tree survey. Minute 0126.04c refers. The tree survey had been carried out and the report received. The clerk will arrange for a tree surgeon to carry out the work which will include additional areas that need attention. The recently felling Ash Tree is growing from the stump and will need to be removed. The area of trees and shrubs outside South Farm needs tidying and this will be carried out at the same time.

0326.05 **County Councillors Report.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave a verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and Whittington Parish.

- a) Local Transport Plan. Information on the LTP is still awaited.
- b) Military Road. The last stage of the improvements from Harlow Hill to Matfen Piers Junction are almost complete. English Heritage had held the work up at Matfen Piers Junction however it is expected that this will be complete by the 1st week in April.
- c) Parish Council Conference. The conference had been held on 5th March. Unfortunately, no-one had attended from Whittington Parish Council. The feedback from other Councils was that the conference was very useful.
- d) Northumberland County Council Budget. The budget for the coming year will be very tight however it has been agreed.
- e) Members Scheme Funding. Cllr Mrs V Jones still has some money left from this year's members funding. It was suggested that the Parish Council could apply for the funding for new notice boards in Hallington and Great Whittington.

0326.06 **Planning Matters**

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
25/01501/FUL	Land West of Village Hall, Great Whittington	Application for 11no dwellings (amended layout 18.12.25) WITHDRAWN

It was noted that planning application 23/02319/FUL Change of Use from agricultural land to allow stationing of shipping container for holiday letting with parking, landscaping and solar array at Duck Pond Cabin, North East Of Quarry House Great Whittington had been refused in April 2024 however no enforcement action had been taken and the property is being

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actively marketed as an AirBnB. Cllr Mrs V Jones will follow this up with planning enforcement.

0326.07 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 appointment of Robert Macfarlane, Internal Auditor for the year 2025-26. It was RESOLVED to appoint Robert Macfarlane as the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2025-26. The cost will be £55.00.
- c) Agendas by post. Due to the unreliability of the postal service and the increasing costs of postage stamps, it was RESOLVED that all Councillors will receive agendas by email with hard copies being provided at the meetings.

PAYEE	DETAILS	GROSS	VAT	NET	REF
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	4.75		4.75	DD
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	7.25		7.25	DD
Woodsman Arboriculture	Tree survey/report	420.00	70.00	350.00	010990
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	240.00		240.00	010991
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	60.00		60.00	010992
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	40.87		40.87	010993
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	6.75		6.75	DD
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – March 2026	15.00		15.00	010994
Information Commissioner's Office	Data protection fee	47.00		47.00	DD
Income					
HMRC VTR	VAT refund	639.69		639.69	16.02.26

0326.08 Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.

- a) Village Hall. The Village Hall had been awarded two grants, one from the Green Rigg Windfarm and the other from the Ray Windfarm funds. Batteries for the solar panel system had been purchased which makes the Village Hall self sufficient on electricity.

0326.09 To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.

- a) Grey Squirrels. Grey squirrels had been seen in various gardens in Great Whittington. Cllr M Petrie had reported this to the Red Squirrels Northern England. Cllr S Gregory will provide traps.
- 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. County Councillor Mrs V Jones will pursue this on behalf of the Parish Council.
- d) Road surface. The road from Hallington crossroads to East Quarter appears to be subsiding. Cllr Mrs V Jones to report this.
- e) Flooding. There is a large area of flooding on the road from Great Whittington to Matfen. Cllr Mrs V Jones to follow this up.
- f) Library Consultation. Northumberland CC is carrying out a consultation on library services within Northumberland including mobile libraries. Parish Councillors were encouraged to respond to the consultation.
- g) Relocation of notice board. It was AGREED to relocate the notice board outside the village hall to the centre of the village.
- h) Fibre Broadband. It was noted that BT has now upgraded to fibre broadband in Great Whittington and this is due to go live in April 2026. Alncom is already providing full fibre broadband.

0326.10 **Date of next meeting** – The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19th May 2026** at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.