

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 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 and Mrs Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council

0526.01 **Election of Chairman.** It was proposed by Cllr M Petrie, seconded by Cllr W E Robson and RESOLVED unanimously to re-elect Cllr S Gregory as Chairman of Whittington Parish Council.

0526.02 **Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** Cllr S Gregory gave and signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council.

0526.03 **Election of Vice Chairman.** It was proposed by Cllr S Gregory, seconded by Cllr W Brittain and RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr W Robson as Vice Chairman.

0526.04 **Apologies for absence.** None.

0526.05 **Declarations of interest.** None

0526.06 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**, having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

0526.07 **Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

- a) Tree survey. Minute 0326.04c refers. Unfortunately, no response had been received from the tree surgeon to carry out the work in Great Whittington. Cllr W Brittain is to approach a neighbour who carries out this work to see if he would be interested. Mrs M Senior will forward the tree survey to Cllr W Brittain to pass on.
- b) Notice Boards. Minute 0326.05e refers. Unfortunately, the notice boards do not meet the criteria for funding from Cllr Mrs V Jones member's funding.
- c) Pavement outside The Queens Head. Minute 0326.09c refers. Cllr Mrs V Jones advised that Northumberland County Council will carry out the work to remove the kerb and reinstate the road.

0526.08 **County Councillors Report.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave a verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and Whittington Parish.

- a) Library Consultation. This is now complete. The report is awaited.
- b) Refuse collection. Problems with missed collections have been due to several of the bin wagons breaking down. Cllr Jones gave an update on the new recycling arrangements which will be implemented in 2027.
- c) Planning application 23/02319/FUL Duck Pond Cabin, North East of Quarry House, Great Whittington. It was noted that although this retrospective application had been refused, the property was still being let and no enforcement action had been taken and no further update was available.

0526.09 **Planning Matters**

REFERENCE	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
26/00798/FUL	Land West of Roses Bower, Hallington	Use of existing tree house as a dwelling (retrospective)

25/04566/FUL	Land South West of Shellbraes Quarry, Great Whittington	Laying of stone at existing field entrance, extending 25m in length and 5m in width. <b>GRANTED</b>
24/04186/FUL	Land North East of Sewage Works, Great Whittington	Proposed erection of an agriculture building. <b>GRANTED</b>

**0526.10 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) Risk Assessment. The Risk Assessment was presented to the Parish Council for review. It was RESOLVED to accept and approve the Risk Assessment.

PAYEE	DETAILS	GROSS	VAT	NET	REF
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	5.25		5.25	DD
Bank of Scotland	Bank account charges	6.25		6.25	DD
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	252.00		252.00	010996
HM Revenue Customs	PAYE	63.00		63.00	010997
Northumberland ALC	Subscription 2026	141.87		141.87	010995
Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal	304.00		304.00	010998
Mrs A Senior	Travel/postages	25.64		25.64	010999
Spusu	Mobile phone contract	4.90	0.82	4.08	DC
R Macfarlane	Internal audit fee	55.00		55.00	010100
Great Whittington Village Hall	Hall rent – May	15.00		15.00	010101
Anne Lawson	Defibrillator – Hallington – electricity supply	30.00		30.00	010102
<b>Income</b>					
Northumberland County Council	Precept	3500.00		3500.00	06.04.26

**0526.11 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025-2026 (AGAR)**

- a) To consider and agree any actions arising from the Internal Auditor's Report 2025-26. The only matter arising is the members details for Whittington Parish Council published on the Northumberland County Council website are not up to date. The clerk will contact Democratic Services, NCC to update the details.
- b) To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025-26. It was RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement.
- c) To approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances 2025-26. It was RESOLVED to accept and approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances 2025-26.
- d) To confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption 2025-26. It was RESOLVED to confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption 2025-26.
- e) To confirm dates for the notice of the period for the exercise of public rights. This was confirmed as 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026. The appropriate notice will be displayed from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 on the notice board and website.

**0526.12 Great Whittington Village Hall and the village environment.**

- a) Village Hall. The Village Hall now has a regular weekly fitness class which will run for 6 months. An energy audit has recently been carried out.

- b) Dogs and livestock. Problems are still being experienced in the area with dogs not under control around livestock.

0526.13 **To consider the registration of the Queens Head as an Asset of Community Value.** Cllr W Brittain gave an update on the current status of the pub. The landlord of the pub has given up his full-time job to concentrate on the running of the pub as his commitment to making it a success. There are now various groups meeting in the pub including; quoits, darts, pool, book club, charity events and talks. They are working with the Village Hall to avoid conflict of events. Cllr W Brittain is pulling together the information required to apply to Northumberland County Council to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value. It was RESOLVED to support this application and Cllr W Brittain will present the application to a future Parish Council meeting to approve.

0526.14 **To receive Councillors reports and Highway matters.**

- a) Planning application 24/04186/FUL – Proposed erection of an agricultural building. Although this application was for 2 smaller sheds, it has been constructed as one very large building which dominates the view down the village.
- b) Great Whittington welcome signs. It was noted that the signs are in need of cleaning/refurbishment. It is unclear if these signs are the responsibility of NCC. Cllr Mrs Jones will make some enquiries.
- c) Road surface. The road from Hallington crossroads to East Quarter appears to be subsiding. Cllr Mrs V Jones had reported this but no action had been taken.
- d) Flooding. There is a large area of flooding on the road from Great Whittington to Matfen. Cllr Mrs V Jones had reported this and it was noted that the drain under the road had collapsed. NCC will carry out repairs in due course..
- e) War Memorial. Cllr S Gregory will continue to cut the grass around the Hallington War Memorial in 2026.

0526.15 **Date of next meeting** – The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026** at 7.30pm in Great Whittington Village Hall.