

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.00 p.m. Thursday 27th October 2022 Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (HD -Chair), Peter Henry (PH) Fran Tait (FT), Alan Tait (AT),
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence.** None.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on the Thursday 25th August 2022** were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such (proposed FT, seconded (PH).
3. **Matters arising from the minutes** not appearing in the agenda. None

New Matters

4. **Highways and Footways Report.** AT presented the following report:

Highways Inspection:

- No further potholes have been notified via the web site to Highways Dept.

Footpaths:

- The Simonside car park has now re-opened. The signs indicate that all the trails through the forest are clear. Although I have not checked them, I assume they are safe if they have been opened.

Verges:

- A few more of the passing places along Carterside Road need attention. Peter and I will address this in the next couple of weeks.

Seats & Road Signs:

- The replacement commemorative bench has been mounted on its concrete plinth. The owners have said that they are pleased with the result. My thanks to Peter Henry and Alan Winlow for their assistance.
- There is some ballast and cement left after this and I think it would be worthwhile to create a plinth under the bench on Whitton Bank. This will slow down the deterioration of that bench considerably.
- Alan Winlow has restored and used the old bench on the Grand Fir Walk, opened by Hilary recently alongside the Lordenshaw Road.

Drains:

- The grips in various locations have been checked and all seem to be working well.
- The various drains along the roads have been checked and cleared of debris where needed.

Parish Noticeboard

- A resident had reported that the back of the Parish Noticeboard needed attention.

Members agreed to:

- Reimburse AT for the cost of the sand, gravel and cement for the construction of the concrete plinth for the commemorative bench. **Action: Clerk**
- Check with the Council's insurers regarding how to cost the commemorative bench for insurance claim purposes. **Action: Clerk**
- Investigate security anchorage for the new commemorative bench. **Action: AT**
- Use remaining sand, gravel and cement for a concrete plinth for the bench on Whitton Bank. **Action: AT/PH**
- To purchase varnish and apply to the rear of the noticeboard. **Action: AT**

5. **Finance**

- i) Notification of receipts since the last meeting. Approved.

06/09/2022	NCC Pay Ref: 5044960	Precept Second Half	2347.50
06/06/2022	Business Acc. 70103195	Interest 01/06/2022-31/08/2022	0.15
		Total	2347.65

ii)

- iii) Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

26/09/2022	G Rhodes	Pay & Expenses (Jul-Sep)	235.80
26/09/2022	HMRC	PAYE (Jul-Sep)	55.20
06/10/2022	Rothbury DCC	Room Rental 25/08/2022	12.00
06/10/2022	NorthumberlandALC	PC Insurance	168.56
		Total	471.56

- iv) Requests for donations: Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS). £100 donation agreed. **Action: Clerk**

- v) Bank Reconciliation to 24th October 2022. Approved.

Balance per e-bank statement at 24/10/2022		
Community account		3962.62
Business Saver (31/08/2022)		2007.42
		5970.04
Less unrepresented cheques		
Parish Council	0.00	

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		0.00
Uncredited Deposits	0.00	
		0.00
Balance		5970.04
Balance per cash book		5970.04

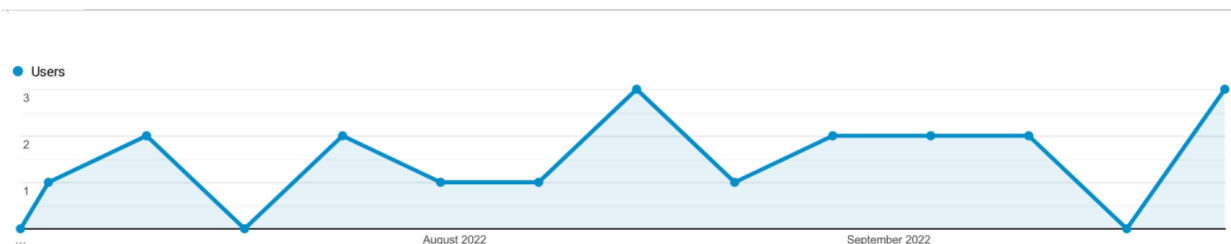
- 6. **Correspondence:** To consider any key issues of correspondence not on the agenda. None.
- 7. **Planning:** To consider any planning applications and planning matters

i)

Reference	Address	Type	Status
21/04383/FUL	Rams Wood The Pele Tower Whitton	Application	Registered

- ii) Pre -Planning Consultation EE PNS 95387. The Parish Council considered the pre-planning. It was noted that the address for this development was inaccurate and was actually sited on Wolfsheil Farm and not Little Tosson Farm. Nonetheless the Council had no objection to this proposal on the condition that the Proposed Telecommunications Installation included an emergency generator. Following the problems experienced during Storm Arwen, the Council had agreed that it would only support such installations if an emergency generator was an integral part of the development. **Action: Clerk**

- 8. **Police Report.** None received. It was agreed to write to Alnwick Community police to ask why reports were not being received. **Action: Clerk**
- 9. **Rothbury JBC Report.** HD reported that the JBC were considering building new toilet facilities for the cemetery staff, as currently the toilet they were using was connected to the cemetery lodge and was an inconvenience for the resident of the lodge. A complaint that wild rabbits were encroaching into the cemetery and pest control had been called out.
- 10. **Coquetdale Cluster.** FT/AT reported that the two items on the agenda brought forward by WTPC were met with the response that the Cluster was not deemed to be an appropriate agency to act on behalf of the parishes in the group but rather to be a forum to disseminate information and there was little enthusiasm from other parishes for the two proposals. With respect to the request from WTPC to consider a Coquetdale Climate Change Action Plan, it was suggested that it would be beneficial for individual Parish Councils to get involved with Climate and Action, a pro-active community group in Rothbury. It was agreed that as a very small parish there was little WTPC could do individually with respect to a Climate Action Plan. The response regarding the request from WTPC to consider Northern Powergrid Emergency Resilience Grant Funding was that Rothbury Parish Council were to submit an application to the Emergency Resilience Grant fund for the provision of a generator and related Crises Management equipment for the Jubilee Institute and as WTPC were part of the RPC Crises Management Working Group they would benefit from this provision..
- 11. **Crisis response.** HD had attended a crisis management training day where the Rothbury emergency plan had been tested and this had been very successful. The plan should be able to support all emergency situations. Rothbury would provide support to Whitton & Tosson, and HD would continue to represent WTPC on the Rothbury Crisis Response Group.
- 12. **Meeting to discuss preparations being made for winter with Northern Powergrid (NPG) and Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP** Tuesday 8th November. Together with Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP NPG were holding a community meeting for residents, on Tuesday 8th November, 6.00 -7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall, to hear about improved measures being taken, (including the Emergency Resilience Grant) to prepare for any disruption caused by storms this winter. There would be a presentation and opportunity to ask questions. AT/FT/PH to attend. **Action: AT/FT/PH**
- 13. **Community Resilience Event 29th September Feedback.** This seems to have been a very successful and well attended event. Two emails with notes and presentations of the event had been circulated to members.
- 14. **Whitton and Tosson Parish Council Website - Quarterly Report**



- 15. **Any Other Business**
 - a. Town, Parish and Community Council Conferences. To be held on Monday 16 January - St James Church Centre, Alnwick.
- 16. **Date and Items for the next meeting: Thursday 12th January 2023 7.00 p.m. Parish Room Rothbury**

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