



Wednesday 7th January 2026 - Whalton Village Hall

Open Parish Council Meeting

(Draft minutes until signed)

26:01 Cllr's Present: Chair Dr Anne Lennard, Vice chair Martin Grix, David Storey. Stephen Trobe.

In attendance:

Malcolm Burn (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Lyle Darwin (NCC)
Mr Neil Easton (NCC) Transport Manager
12 members of the public attended.

26:02 Apologies for absence received: None received

26:03 Declaration of Interests, and grant of any dispensations: None

26:04 Public questions received in advance: None received

26:05 Minutes of previous meeting: (Chair)

The minutes of the previous meeting(s) held on 19th November 2025 and 26th November were agreed & signed by the Chair.

26:06 Matters Arising from the Minutes (unless separately on the agenda)

26.06.01 (25.84.02) Transport manager Mr Neil Easton was introduced to the meeting by the chair. Explanation of the methods of working and finance were detailed by Mr Easton. Extensive discussion took place including several questions from the public regarding the level of public bus services provided to and from the parish. In depth discussion followed regarding bus timetables and use of specific services currently in operation. Cllr Darwin raised concerns for and on behalf of the parishioners. Mr Easton will consider changes to current services based upon discussions and feedback received. WPC to feedback any future updates.

26.06.02 Discussion took place regarding a draft local plan for the parish. Cllrs were invited by the chair to offer their opinion. A vote was taken. WPC **resolved** to develop a draft local plan for the parish. Clerk to inform Neighbourhood planning (NCC) and feedback on next steps to WPC.

26:07 Cllr Lyle Dawin (NCC):

26.07.01 Cllr Darwin confirmed an estimate of 200GBP was provided by NCC for the possible installation of a pole suitable for a speed indicator device. Discussion took place regarding an appropriate site for installation at Ogle village. Resolved to proceed, Cllr Darwin to liaise with NCC. The Clerk confirmed the data reading from a SID required a numerical PIN for the Elan City specific app. Clerk to action.

26.07.02 Estimate has been received regarding posts & chains. Cllr Darwin to give feedback to the council regarding timescales.

26:08 Financial Matters: (Clerk)

26.08.01

Non routine / other payments made

HugoFox Ltd website building & training	199+vat
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26.08.02 Invoices anticipated.

HugoFox Ltd Secure email accounts x7 Gov.uk	210+vat
Additional Grass cutting NCC season 2026	384+vat

26.08.03 The Clerk confirmed balances at the date of the meeting.

Current Account Unity Trust Bank	7,975.29
Saving Account Unity Trust Bank 2.25% instant access	3,806.95
Total Balances to date	11,782.24

26.08.04 Clerk confirmed Unity Trust Bank monthly fee has increased by 1GBP to 7GBP.

26.09 Parish member Vacancy (All)

26.09.01 Discussion took place regarding the requirement to fill the vacancy. Current members are to make enquiries in and around the parish.

26:10 Correspondence (Clerk)

26.10.01 Confirmation that WPC has responded to the young persons charity grant application to be considered in 2026.

26.10.02 NCC have notified all local councils of consultation regarding a planning design code survey available online. Closing 12th Jan 2026.

26.10.03 Clerk confirmed receipt of a hard copy of an updated electoral register for the parish.

26:11 Planning:

26.11.01 25/03773/LBC Lyne Law Farm Whalton - replace sash windows, closing 23/12/25

26.11.02 25/3609/FUL Conversion of building old stables Ponteland -

GRANTED

26.11.03 West House Ogle 25/04524/FUL Extension to existing garage - closing 7th Jan. No comment

26:12 Local Transport Planning (LTP) (All)

26.12.01 Clerk reminded WPC that no set objectives were previously identified. Discussion took place. Cllrs **resolved** to defer this item.

26:13 Parish Wide Maintenance Schedule 25/26: (Discussion all)

26.13.01 Clerk confirmed a response was received from (NCC) regarding the grass cutting season 2026.(26.08.02). WPC **resolved** to continue. Clerk to action invoice.

26.13.02 Cllr Grix confirmed that the NCC gully pot cleaning team had re-visited the parish with a number of gullies, including Meldon Rd now cleaned.

26:14 Council Website & secure email (All)

26.14.01 Clerk confirmed the new email contracts were ready(25.91.02). Clerk to action & update council regarding timescales.

26.14.02 HugoFox has now built a draft website to the requirements of WPC. Positive feedback was noted including a WPC logo. The clerk is awaiting training from HF. Files to upload, clerk to action.

26:15 Ogle Speeding issues

26.15.01 Discussion took place, advice from the clerk is to take action. WPC agreed as at item (26.07.01).

26:16 Mobile Library service (Chair)

26.16.01 The chair introduced this item for discussion. Service(s) have been reduced due to issues with maintenance of vehicles & funding issues.

26:17 Date of next meeting(s):

26.17.01 **All scheduled parish council meetings are open to the public**

26.17.02 **Wednesday 4th March 7:30pm at Whalton village hall.**

6th May - 7pm parishioners annual meeting & 7:30pm annual parish council meeting.

8th July

2nd September

18th November - Finance review / Budget setting

Meeting closed at 9:25pm

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....