

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in Whittingham Memorial Institute at 7pm on Tuesday 18th February, 2020.

Draft Minutes

Present; Acting chair Councillor B Wood. Councillors A Whincup, A Young, S Gray, R Bateson, J Renner, Lord Ravensworth; A Smith (Clerk).

Apologies; Chair I Lepingwell, Councillors K Turvey, C Durie, H Sordy and K Armstrong.

1.Declaration of Members Interests (Only in so far as they affected items on the agenda). Cllr Young regarding item 6, PA 20/00084/VARYCO.

2.Questions from members of the public. There were no members of the public.

3. Invited Speaker Rob Murfin, Northumberland County Council's Director of Planning, had had to cancel his attendance. The clerk will seek to rearrange for a future meeting.

4.Minutes The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of 21st January , 2020 (previously circulated) were signed as a true record.

5.Matters Arising from the Minutes

a. Parking congestion at certain times of the day in front of the Whittingham Memorial Institute and Whittingham C of E School; The school had reported they were still awaiting an update from NCC following the placement of a mobile camera.

b. Telephone call box; The clerk reported that BT has confirmed the call box in Whittingham has been added to its 2020 repainting schedule (operating between April and September).

c. Update on gully and drain cleaning in the Parish; The clerk reported that Graham Bucknall, Area Highways Manger, had confirmed that the gully tanker is back on the road and catching up with works.

d. The Parish Council request for potholes to be looked at on roads in the Parish, in particular Rothill Road, has been passed to Nigel Brannan, Northern Area Highways Inspector, for attention.

e. White railings at Whittingham Bridge; the poor condition and Ivy coverage has been reported to Nigel Brannen, Northern Area Highways Inspector.

f. Internet banking; The clerk is now set up with online banking for the Parish Council and the councils other signatories are also looking to apply.

6.New Business

a.Tree in Whittingham Vicarage Driveway; Following work in the Vicarage at Whittingham the Diocese of Newcastle had raised a concern that a Sycamore tree is damaging the stone wall in the churchyard. As a representative of the PCC, the PC chair Ian Lepingwell had asked if any councillors could recommend a tree surgeon to have a look at it. Councillor A Young said he would be able to refer someone.

b.Hedgerow and fencing removal in Whittingham; This matter was looked into between meetings and is considered to be in order. A parishioner had contacted the Parish Council concerned about the possibility of old hedgerows being uprooted in fields at the entrances to the village. A County Council

officer had attended but was happy that it was fencing rather than hedgerows and that the areas in question are also going to have some new planting/infill of existing hedgerows.

c.NALC Anti-social behaviour and petty crime survey; The PC considered the survey which asked for the Parishes top three most common types of anti-social behaviour and/or petty crime, from a list provided. The PC listed poaching and other wildlife crime; scam, telephone, internet or text messages; and Fly-tipping.

d.Grant requests from Alnwick Bailliffgate Museum and Gallery and Alnwick Playhouse. It was agreed to consider these requests at a future meeting when other requests may have been received. Lord Ravensworth mentioned it had previously been agreed to consider immediately local donations.

7.Planning

a. New Applications:

PA 19/03495/FUL Proposed paintball site with ancillary storage area, Land South West of Mill Covert, The Lane, Whittingham. (Amended site location plan and site boundary change). The amendments to this application, which the PC previously supported, were discussed. The clerk highlighted an objection made by a Parishioner to NCC which had been forwarded to the PC regarding the impact on the environment and landscape. Following discussion it was agreed to support the application.

PA 20/00084/VARYCO Variation of condition 2 pursuant to planning application 19/01692/VARYCO in order to better suit the topography of the site, Land West of Treetops, Callaly Road. Councillor A Young had declared an interest. The amended site layout was viewed by councillors and there were no objections.

8.Finance

The following information was received: **Parish Council Account**

Brought forward from previous meeting

£7309.99

Item paid out between November-January meeting and as an oversight not accounted for at January meeting:

919 Cheque to Jimmy Douglas for Christmas tree at Whittingham £70 (expenditure for Christmas tree approved at November meeting).

Paid out since meeting of 21stth January (Please note new cheque book used at January's meeting as the chair was unable to attend the meeting and was in possession of older cheque book).

927 Donation to Alnham Burial Ground (as agreed at November meeting) £100

926 Clerks Wages for January £113.21

Clerks travel(Alnwick to Whittingham return) Jan meeting at £0.45 per mile £6.30

Admin expenses (stamps) Clerk £7.32

Total to clerk £126.83

Paid in since meeting of November 2019

Refund fees £2

Compensatory Gross Interest £1.56

Balance Carried Forward £6945.75

Parish Plan Account No transactions this period. **1157.03**

Accounts for payment as of 18th February 2020

Clerks Wages for February	£113.21
Clerks travel(Alnwick to Whittingham return)	
Jan meeting at £0.45 per mile	£6.30
Total to clerk	£119.51

9. Correspondence. (Not covered elsewhere on the agenda) NCC's renewed Public Spaces Protection Order for the control of dogs; came into force on January 30th, 2020. Lorbottle telephone kiosk; query about date of removal; The clerk had been in touch with BT who confirmed this phone box will be removed ASAP following power disconnection but were unable to give a specific date. The clerk had circulated the Local Transport Plan 2020-21 report, The clerk had received a request from a Newcastle University student studying Rural Studies to attend a meeting but unfortunately the PC dates did not fit with her timetable.

10. Other Business.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Review of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way, Definitive Map Modification Order (no 18) 2019, Alleged Byway Open to All Traffic No 31 (Parish of Alnham); At January's meeting the PC had considered the order and replied to NCC highlighting the poor state of the road should vehicular traffic use it. The clerk had since had communication from NCC's Definitive Map Officer Alex Bell asking that the PC clarify in writing whether or not the PC were simply commenting on the current state of the road or whether its comments amounted to an objection or representation which means the Order must be considered by the Secretary of State. Following discussion the Parish Council considered that the state of the road is something that needs to be highlighted as a formal representation from the point of view that the road is not safe for drivers to use should anyone be directed down that route by sat nav. The clerk will write.

Lack of road signs Councillor Whincup and others raised the lack of adequate road signage to warn of the recent works outside Whittingham Memorial Hall which meant a road closure. Councillor Whincup had spoken with water board workers but it was agreed the clerk would raise this complaint officially.

Date of next meeting: 17th March 2020.

Amy Smith Clerk to the Council

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