



# WHITTINGHAM, CALLALY & ALNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

Clerk: Sarah Trushell | [whittinghampc29@gmail.com](mailto:whittinghampc29@gmail.com) | 07455 004164

## MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of WCA Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th January 2026, 7:00pm at the Whittingham Memorial Institute Hall.

### Present:

**Councillors:** Andrew Whincup (Chairman), Karen Armstrong, Neil Blackshaw, Jamie Bolton, Paul Bradley, Jonathan Clark (left after item 165/25), Elidh Gardiner, Toni Marsden, James Renner, Brian Wood

### 122/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Gray and accepted.

### 123/25 Declaration of interests.

It was noted that some Members owned holiday let properties within the parish and were therefore members of the class of persons to whom the correspondence at item 128/25(b) would be addressed. The Clerk advised that this did not constitute a disclosable pecuniary interest and no withdrawals were required.

### 122/25 Public Participation

A member of the public asked for an explanation of the decision recorded in the minutes relating to the Riverside Path.

The Chair stated that, as the land was in his ownership, he would withdraw from the room should the Council wish to discuss the matter. Members indicated that they were content to move on without further discussion.

The Chair therefore declined to provide further comment, stating that the decision was recorded in the minutes.

### 123/25 Minutes of the Meeting of 18 November 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### 124/25 Matters Arising

An update was received regarding the stile on the footpath between the Church and the road towards the mountain. The Rights of Way Officer had advised it should be replaced with a gate.

Councillor Whincup declared an interest and left the room. Councillor Armstrong took the Chair. It was noted that a gate had been provided, and the Clerk was asked to write to the Estate to confirm when the works would be carried out.

Councillor Whincup then returned and resumed the Chair and advised, for information only, that a replacement gate was expected to be installed shortly.

### 125/25 Community Matters.

*Signed as a true record of the meeting* \_\_\_\_\_ *on Date* \_\_\_\_\_



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## **a) Cast Iron Road Signs**

Cllr Gardiner has yet to receive a response

## **b) Bus Shelter**

No response has yet been received from the County Council regarding a grant or from Highways regarding an alternative site.

## **c) Phone Box**

No progress had been made due to the time of year and weather conditions. It was noted that materials were still required and that assistance would be needed to complete the internal fit out.

## **d) A697 Junction Road Safety**

It was agreed that a further letter would be sent to Highways requesting a meeting, with proposed dates to be included. If this was not possible, Highways would be asked to suggest alternative dates.

## **126/25 Parish Council Administration Matters**

### **a) Neighbourhood Plan**

Feedback from Sarah Brannigan, Neighbourhood Planning Team, was noted. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged in early February, followed by a Steering Group meeting to agree the next steps.

### **b) Holiday Lets**

The proposal to write to holiday let owners regarding voluntary contributions was agreed, subject to the Clerk obtaining a list of relevant properties.

### **c) Grant Application**

It was agreed that the application would be reviewed in February and that the Clerk would invite further applications from the Scouts and Vale News. The Clerk was also asked to update the application form.

### **d) Parish Council Website**

The Clerk was asked to chase for further quotations, with three quotes to be obtained including one from NALC.

## **127/25 Governance Documents**

### **a) Biodiversity Plan**

It was agreed that the Council's aims and timescales should be developed further. Councillors were asked to submit their suggestions for consideration at the February or March meeting. It was also agreed that the local community would be invited to provide comments and suggestions.

### **b) Standing Orders**

It was agreed that the proposed delegation in relation to planning applications would operate on the basis of unanimous agreement of all councillors who responded, with any councillor able to require the matter to be referred to a meeting.



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## 128/25 Planning Matters

**a) 25/04633/LBC**, Castle Farm Whittingham NE66 4RQ

The Council resolved to support the application.

**b) 25/04465/LBC** West Wing Callaly Castle Callaly NE66 4TA

The Council resolved to support the application.

**c) 25/04193/LBC & 25/04194/LBC** 3 Callaly High Houses NE66 4TE

The Council resolved to support the applications.

## 129/25 Financial Matters:

**a) Transaction Report**

The Transaction Report has been published on the Council's website in accordance with transparency requirements and was circulated at the meeting.

**b) Bank Reconciliation**

The bank reconciliation to 20 January 2026 was received and accepted.

**c) Payments for Authorisation**

The Clerk's wages and Working from Home Allowance (£26) were noted as contractually approved and paid in accordance with the Clerk's contract of employment.

**d) 2026/2027 Budget and Precept**

The Council considered whether to reduce the precept following receipt of a refund of £2,857.19, or to retain the previously agreed precept.

It was resolved, by a vote of 8 in favour and 2 against, to retain the precept at £15,161 and place the surplus into reserves.

## 130/25 Items for Information or Future Agenda

Revisiting the possibility of improved village communications, including use of email, was raised.

It was agreed that the use of the £10,000 donation would be included as an agenda item at the February meeting.

The idea of installing information boards, including the use of QR codes linked to the Parish Council website, was also noted.

Vale News requested a regular Parish Council update. It was agreed that the existing arrangement for Cllr Gardiner to provide a Parish Council round up would continue.

The purchase of Christmas tree lights for use in future years and the possibility of a permanent Christmas tree with a plaque were raised for consideration at a future meeting.

## 131/25 Date of next and future meetings (to start at 7pm unless stated otherwise)

17th February 2026

Signed as a true record of the meeting \_\_\_\_\_ on Date \_\_\_\_\_