

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON



Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
15th January Thursday 2026
Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (HD -Chair), Peter Henry (PH), Alan Tait (AT), Fran Tait (FT).
In attendance: None

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Clerk.
2. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th December 2025** were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such (Proposed (AT), Seconded (PH), All in Favour).
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not included in the agenda**

4. **Police Report:** OFFICIAL

We're aware of the seat which was set on fire on the Tossion Road as a result of the BBQ, where the crime reference is 2766W/26. If anyone has taken any photographs of those involved, we will follow up on this, could you provide a value for the damage so crime report can be updated please?

Thanks Peter

An invoice from Alan Winlow for £23.28 for repairs had been received. This to be reported to the police. **Action: Clerk**

5. **Highways and Footways including:** AT reported:

- a. **Highways:** The passing places along Carterside Road have been upgraded by the county council by digging to a level base and putting road planeings down and compacting them with a road roller. Whilst doing this they also cleaned out the drainage ditches, emptied the drain gullies, and refreshed the grips. The Chair thanked AT and FT for organising passing place repairs. It was also agreed to send an official thank you to Graham Bucknall NCC Highways for the work done. **Action: Clerk**
- b. **Verges:** No issues
- c. **Footpaths:** No issues with footpaths have been reported
- d. **Verges:** No issues on the verges.
- e. **Seats & Road Signs:** The roadside bench on the way to Simonside Car Park had been damaged by someone lighting a barbecue on it. The damaged wood had now been replaced and painted. Thanks go to Alan Winlow for completing this.
- f. **Drains:** All grips and drain gullies have been cleared of vegetation and silt and are now running free.

6. **Finance**

- g. **Notification of receipts since the last meeting.** Noted.

08/12/2025	Barclays 70103195	Interest	6.07
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- h. **Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting.** Noted.

15/12/2025	Rothbury DCC	Room Hire: Parish Rooms	12.00
05/01/2026	HMRC	PAYE	93.20
05/01/2026	Garth Rhodes	Salary & Expenses	451.60
		Total	556.80

- i. **Requests for donations.** None.

- j. **Bank Reconciliation.** Noted

Bank Reconciliation at 11th January 2026		£
Balance per e- bank statements at 11th January 2025		
Community account		2471.95
Business Saver		2085.87
		4557.82
Less unrepresented cheques		0.00
Uncredited Deposits		0.00
Balance		4557.82
Balance per cash book		4557.82

- k. **Agree budget and precept for next financial year.** The members discussed and agreed the budget 2026-27 and the precept request for £6750 prepared by the Clerk. This remained the same as the previous year. The annual single property charge at Band D for 2026 027 would increase by 1.67% to £88.20. **Appendix 1. Budget.**

7. **Planning:** To consider any planning applications. There were currently no requests for consultation that had not already been commented on.

Reference	Address	Type	Status
25/04280/LBC	Whitton Grange Whitton Morpeth Northumberland NE65 7RL	Application	Registered

8. **Emergency Planning & Community Flood Plan Reports**

a) Ryehill Flood Defences - Budget Trash Screen had been completed. Alan Winlow submitted the following report:
Minimising the Flood Risk for the Cottages at Ryehill – Further Actions:

- Budget Trash Screen fitted – for safe access, we need a handrail for the steps down the bank – in hand.
- Loose timber/branches need to be cleared alongside the stream before Spring vegetation growth starts.
- *Question:* What happens during a major flood when culverts and emergency overflow across the road are at full capacity? – *Solution* - increase the grip width on the north side of the road by an additional two metres. (not full depth as services below) Seed the area. The tarmac already slopes towards the north.
- *Question:* What happens when the water starts to flow along the road towards the cottages over the tarmac above the culverts? *Solution* – Place a row of sandbags across the road at the top of the anticline above the culverts, 2 high and close the road. Road closed signs to be provided by Graham – He happens to have two available. Siting of signs agreed with Graham and Martin – check with residents. Martin will store sandbags on a pallet and move to the area with the front loader when needed. The signs will not cover the third road from Ryehill Farm, so Martin and Paul to be advised of the action to close the road. Flood wardens to activate the signs and place the sandbags.

J A Winlow 15 January 2026

It was agreed to purchase sufficient aqua sac ‘sandbags’ to be used at the top of the anticline above the culverts, when required. AT to estimate the number necessary and obtain quotation, for approval via delegated powers (HD/AT/Clerk) and Clerk to place an order.

Action: AT/HD/Clerk

9. **Rothbury JBC Report** No issues to report

10. **Coquetdale Cluster** Clerk had written to confirm the PCs withdrawal from the Cluster. There is an outstanding payment for the annual fees which were paid in arrears.

11. **New Parish Website and .gov domain.** Ongoing.

12. **NCC Joint Town and Parish Council Conference Thursday 5th March 2026.** AT/FT had submitted their application to attend. PH also indicated he wished to attend.

Action Clerk

13. **Any Other Business**

14. **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: 7.00 p.m. Thursday 19th March 2026 in the Parish Rooms, Rothbury.**

Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Garth Rhodes, Parish Clerk, 5 Wardle Terrace, Longframlington, NE65 8AB

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THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON



Appendix 1

Annual Allocation of Income and Expenditure 2025-2026 & BUDGET 2026-2027							
	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26		2026/27		2026/27
		Actuals to Date	Est Annual total @ March 2024	Diff	DRAFT Budget	Notes	AGREED Budget
						3% used as rate of inflation where annual increase unknown	
Opening Bank/Cash On Hand	3251.90	3025.11	3025.11	0.00	3732.70		
Precept	5500.00	6750.00	6750.00	0.00	6750.00		
Total Precepted Income	8751.90	9775.11	9775.11	0.00	10482.70		
Other income				0.00			
Interest	30.20	19.81	27.00	7.19	30.00		
Donations etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
NCC Cemetery Double Charge	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.50		
Capital Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
VAT	58.56	32.65	20.00	-12.65	20.00		
Total Other income	88.76	52.46	47.00	-5.46	64.50		
Total All Income	8840.66	9827.57	9822.11	-5.46	10547.20		
Expenditure							
Admin Salary (NET)	1626.80	1124.40	1500.00	375.60	1550.00	included estimated annual increase	
PAYE	406.00	280.80	375.00	94.20	385.00	"	
Admin expenses	75.00	234.00	320.00	86.00	100.00		
Admin General	151.06	193.14	220.00	26.86	150.00		
Insurance	252.75	293.41	293.41	0.00	305.00		
Total Administration Expenditure	2511.61	2125.75	2708.41	582.66	2490.00		
Village Amenities Expenditure							
Maint/ance	251.90	0.00	50.00	50.00	275.00		
Room Hire	80.00	48.00	72.00	24.00	100.00		
SUNDRIES	10.04	42.00	55.00	13.00	75.00		
Capital Spend	114.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
JBC	2668.00	3004.00	3004.00	0.00	2946.00	Proposed by JBC Dec 2025	
Total Village Amenities Expenditure	3123.94	3094.00	3181.00	87.00	3396.00		
Grant Expenditure				0.00			
Grants given	180.00	50.00	200.00	150.00	300.00		
Total Grants Payable	180.00	50.00	200.00	163.00	200.00		
Total Expenditure	5815.55	5269.75	6089.41	832.66	6086.00		
Total Income less Expenditure	3025.11	4557.82	3732.70	-838.12	4461.20		
Total Income	8840.66	9827.57	9822.11	-5.46	10547.20		
Total Expenditure	5815.55	5269.75	6089.41	832.66	6086.00		
	3025.11	4557.82	3732.70	-838.12	4461.20		
Precept for Individual Properties							
	Precept	ITB	Amount Paid				
y.e. 31 March 2026	6750.00	77.81	86.75				
Proposed y.e. March 2027	6750.00	76.53	88.20				
Property change on previous year	2027	2026	Increase	Monthly	% Increase		
	88.20	86.75	1.45	0.12	1.67%		
ITB: Indicative Tax Base equates to the number of households at Band D after removing those exempted. This is the proposed ITB to be agreed by NCC in January 2026							