

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.00 p.m. Thursday 25th August 2022 Parish Rooms, Rothbury

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

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Peter Henry (PH),
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on the Thursday 16th June** were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such (proposed FT, seconded (AT)).

New Matters

3. **Highways and Footways Report.** AT reported:

Highways Inspection:

- No further potholes had been notified via the website to Highways Dept.
- Alan Winlow notified a fallen tree in the Tosson Water Treatment plant which was now encroaching on the road. Details passed to the Water Authority asking them to address this problem.

Footpaths:

- Footpaths have not been surveyed for this report, but no problems have been reported.

Verges:

- Several potholes in the passing places along Carterside Road have been filled using the road planings available. Many thanks to Alan Winlow for his assistance.

Drains:

- The grips in various locations have been checked and all seem to have worked well during the recent downpours.
- The various drains along the roads have been checked and are all clear of debris.

Seats & Road Signs:

- The replacement commemorative bench has been delivered to AT and he has polished and fitted the plaque. Peter Henry and AT will prepare the concrete plinth and mount the new bench on it. The owners have been kept informed of our progress. Alan Winlow is restoring the old bench ready for redeployment.

No response from the NCC Highways Department regarding the speeding issues along Carterside Road through the Tosson and Newtown hamlets. We have made this our priority for the Local Transport Plan.

4. **Finance**

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

31/05/2022	Business Acc. 70103195	Interest 01/09/2021-30/11/2021	0.05
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- ii) Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

30/06/2022	G Rhodes	Pay & Expenses (Apr-Jun)	238.72
30/06/2022	HMRC	PAYE (Apr- Jun)	55.80
16/06/2022	Rothbury DCC	Room Rental 16/06/2022	12.00
		Total	306.52

- iii) Requests for donations. None.

- iv) Bank Reconciliation to 22nd August 2022. Approved.

Balance per bank statements at:	£
Community account @ 22/08/2022	2086.68
Business Saver @ 31/05/2022	<u>2007.27</u>
	<u>4093.95</u>
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00
Uncredited Deposits	0.00
Balance 31/03/2019	4093.95
Balance per cash book	4093.95

- v) Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2021/22. The notice from the external auditor had been received to inform us that as WTPC had claimed exemption there would be no review performed and consequently no auditor certificate, report, or any other closure documentation, would be issued for this reporting year. The new 5- year external auditor period would commence this year. The PC agreed to remain within the central SAAA procurement arrangements for the appointment of the external auditors.

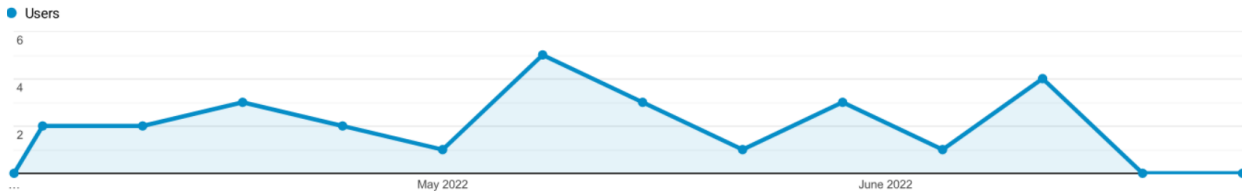
5. **Correspondence:** All key issues of correspondence appeared on the agenda.

6. **Planning:** To consider any planning applications and planning matters

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>
22/01425/LBC	The Pele Tower Whitton Morpeth Northumberland NE65 7RL	Application	Permitted
21/04383/FUL	Rams Wood The Pele Tower Whitton Morpeth Northumberland NE65 7RL	Application	Registered

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7. **Police Report.** None received.
8. **Rothbury JBC Report.** Little business to report as the Rothbury PC meeting prior to the JBC had been inquorate. Efforts were still underway to carry out the diversion of the stream to enable the extension to the cemetery and tree works were progressing well.
9. **Coquetdale Cluster Members** had been asked to consider items for the October meeting. See items 11 & 16ii below.
10. **Parish Councillor Vacancy.** Recent efforts to co-opt a new member onto the council had been unsuccessful. Members were asked to keep an eye out for interested individuals. **Action: All**
11. **Northumberland Town and Parish Council Climate Change Toolkit.** NCC had developed the toolkit to help town and parish councils develop and implement their own climate change action plans. NCC adopted a county-wide Climate Change Action Plan in 2021 and were encouraging parish councils to do the same. It was agreed that this matter may be better addressed as a whole Coquetdale issue and be included as an item on the Cluster agenda. **Action: Clerk**
12. **Whitton and Tosson Parish Council Website - Quarterly Report**



13. **Veteran Needs Survey.** The Council's Armed Forces Engagement Officer was undertaking research on the needs of veterans in the county. The information was noted.
14. **NALC Member Council Update including Appointment of new Chief Officer**
 - i) Graeme Popay had now started as the new NALC Chief Officer taking over from Stephen Ricketts.
 - ii) The Association's AGM to be held on Saturday 8 October 2022 starting at 10.15 AM in The Village Hall, Felton.
 - iii) The Association's Annual Report for 2021/2022 was available at:
https://mcusercontent.com/5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a/files/742c2be8-b760-6cd2-cef2-8404b6f95e50/Annual_Report_2021_2022_Final.pdf
15. **Stakeholder Consultation - Forest Management to be carried out by Forestry England.** In October 2022 an assessment of forest management by Forestry England will take place. They would welcome any comments we have on the forest management carried out by Forestry England using the link:
www.soilassociation.org/stakeholderconsultation/. The deadline for comments is 06/09/2022. Information to be passed to Alan Winlow and to ask him to inform the PC if he needed any assistance if he was to take this matter forward. **Action: Clerk**
16. **Any Other Business**
 - i) **Free Tree Giveaway.** The Climate Change Team at the council had launched a free tree giveaway and asking if we could promote this through their promotional toolkit. It was giving away 10,000 trees with eight different species and parish Councils are eligible to apply. Information to be passed to Alan Winlow and to ask him to inform the PC if he needed any assistance if he was to take this matter forward.
 - ii) **Northern Powergrid - Early Applications for Energy Resilience Grant Funding.** NP were establishing a charitable foundation to administer £7.5m of grant funding for our region, with a particular focus on improving energy resilience during emergency events. They were seeking early application enquiries via MPs, local authorities and Local Resilience Forums in the areas worst affected by the storms last year. Grants of £1,000 to £20,000 to be made available to organisations through the Foundation, with a focus on supporting energy resilience during emergency events. It was expected that Rothbury PC Crises Management Working Group would make an application for this funding and as WTPC was formally part of the group with HD as a member that the Parish Council would not submit a separate application. This was another matter which could be included as an item for the next Coquetdale Cluster meeting Clerk to inform Rothbury PC clerk of this decision.
17. **Date of next meeting: Thursday 27th October 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Room, Rothbury**

Meeting closed at 7.28 p.m.

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