



THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
7.00 p.m. Thursday 21st September 2023
Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (HD -Chair), Peter Henry (PH), Fran Tait (FT), Alan Tait (AT),

In attendance: PC Russell Stalker, PCSO Peter Johnson, Clerk: Garth Rhodes.

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence. None

2. Police Report. PC Russell Stalker (RS) and PCSO Peter Johnson reported:

- There had been a reorganisation of officers in the area and across the Northumbria force, with an extra 130 PCs. RC & PJ were now responsible for our area. They were keen to be able to have a greater presence and hoped to be able to visit businesses, farms and organisations in our area.
- An abandoned vehicle had been uplifted from the Lordenshaw Car Park. The Police had a good working relationship with the National Park and Forestry England.
- Two recent break-ins in Rothbury. An individual had been arrested and a vehicle uplifted.
- PJ was keen to offer a presentation on Rural Crime. It was suggested that the Coquetdale Cluster would be a good way to disseminate this information.
- Theft from farms and agricultural premises was of growing concern. Quad bikes were a particular favourite of criminals. The use of data tags on agricultural machinery was encouraged. People were asked to keep an eye on people claiming to be scrap merchants who used the opportunity to visit premises to weigh-up possible items to steal.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance. All members agreed this had been a very useful report.

3. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting and Parish Council meeting held on the Thursday 13th July 2023 were reviewed, unanimously approved as a true record and signed as such (proposed AT, seconded (PH), All in Favour).

4. Matters arising from the minutes including:

i) Freedom of the Parish event.

- a. A great success. A number of very positive messages of thanks had been received.
- b. Press release had been submitted to Over the Bridges and the Northumberland Gazette (NG). NG had published the release and OTB to post in the December issue. It had also been put on the WTPC website.
- c. Letters of thanks to Tully's and Running Fox had been sent.
- d. Payments to date:

To	Item	Total including VAT	Total excluding VAT
Communicorp	Production of x2 scrolls	210.66	175.55
Running Fox	-Buffet	150.00	150.00
F. Tait	Purchases for Event	<u>36.79</u>	<u>36.79</u>
	Total	397.45	362.34

- e. Frames for the Scrolls. HD agreed to arrange for the scrolls to be framed. **Action: HD**

ii) Request from Rothbury CAN for Coquetdale Cluster Climate Change Action Plan. The information regarding the meeting to discuss a Coquetdale Climate Action Plan had yet to be published.

iii) Sale of the Rothbury Estate. To date no nominations for community assets within the Rothbury Estate had been submitted to NCC. Rothley with Hollinghill PC was considering submitting a nomination for the Gate and this would be supported by Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council (BHPC). Northumberland Estates had withdrawn the playground field at the Lee from the sale and therefore BHPC had decided not to go forward with a nomination of this at this time. The Rothbury Parish Council's nominations had not as yet been submitted to NCC. There had been several potential buyers who had viewed the estate

5. Highways and Footways Report. AT presented the following report:

Highways

- 20 potholes notified to Highways Dept (by the lime kiln, and between the Simonside Car Park and the cattle grid on the way to Lordenshaw) have now been fixed. The other potholes on Carterside Road are too shallow for highways to repair them at the moment.
- The large potholes in the Simonside Car Park entrance are the responsibility of Forest England but have yet to be addressed. AT to chase up. **Action: AT**

Footpaths

- The footpath signpost at Great Tosson has been replaced.

Verges

- I have reported the pothole on Carterside Road just east of the Newtown just past the Water Authority shed.
- The culvert at the side of Carterside Road has been dug out to prevent any debris blocking the pipes.
- The grips on the Lordenshaw Road have been checked and cleared.

Seats & Road Signs

- The seat between the school and Whitton had been reported as rotting. However, it was the tongue and groove joints which had come undone. This was a simple fix with a few screws. No wood rot was found.
- The seat at the top of Whitton Bank has now been replaced on a concrete plinth (it just sat on the soil previously). Andrew Turnbull was thanked for his assistance with this job.
- The seat on Lordenshaws Road has two pieces of wood which are rotting. I have enough wood to repair this.
- The seat half way up Whitton Bank has several rotten pieces, but Peter Henry intends to replace this with a brand-new bench. The old one will be dismantled for spare parts. **Action: PH**

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- The notice board on Whitton Bank has been stripped and repainted in black. The lettering needs to be picked out in a contrasting colour.

Action: PH

6. Finance

i) Notification of receipts since the last meeting. Approved

05/06/2023	Business Acc. 70103195	Interest	4.19
01/06/2023	HMRC Vtr Xev126/112242	VAT Reclaim	17.49
08/09/2023	NCC Ref 5188901	Precept First Half	2347.50
		Total	2369.18

ii) Approval of Clerk's salary, expenses, PAYE & NI and approval of Other Payments since the last meeting. Approved.

22/07/2023	Rothbury DCC	Parish Church Room Hire	12.00
22/07/2023	N/bria Citizen Advice Bureau	Donation	25.00
03/08/2023	Communicorp	Production of Freedom Scrolls x 2	210.66
12/09/2023	The Running Fox	Buffet for Freedom event	150.00
12/09/2023	F. Tait (reimbursement)	Purchases for Freedom event	36.79
18/09/2023	Rothbury Parish Council	RJBC payment 1st half	1349.00
		Total	1783.45

iii) Requests for donations.

- a. Northumberland Age Concern. Was not approved.

iv) Bank Reconciliation at 18th September 2023. Approved.

Balance per bank statements at 18th September 2023				
	Community account			3974.69
	Business Saver			<u>2015.84</u>
				5990.53
Less unrepresented cheques				
	18/09.2023	Rothbury PC	1349.00	
				1349.00
Uncredited Deposits				0.00
Balance at 18th Sept 2023				4641.53
Balance per cash book				4641.53

7. **Planning:** There were currently no requests for consultation for with NCC that had not already been commented on. Northumberland National Park Authority Application: 23NP0066: Proposed 25.0m high tower on proposed 5.85m x 5.85m x 1.0m concrete foundation at Little Tosson Farm, NE65 7NQ had been granted conditional planning permission.
8. **Rothbury JBC Report.** The proposed diversion to the stream to accommodate more grave spaces had been placed in abeyance until the sale of the Rothbury Estate had gone through. The staff facilities were in the process of being created. Chris Fogan, Thropton PC had been elected as Vice-Chair.
9. **Coquetdale Cluster Report.** No meeting since the last PC meeting. Next meeting in December.
10. **Tree Planting Update.** None received since the last meeting.
11. **Sewage Discharge: Carterside Road and Whitton Bank.** The leak on Carterside Rd from the sewage pump in the Caravan Park had now dried up. Sewage smell reported to Clerk from the new sewage plant on Whitton bank. This had been checked but no smell was detected.
12. **Annual Joint Town & Parish Council Conference County Hall, Morpeth, on Thursday 5th October 2-6pm.** Two places available for members.
13. **Any Other Business**
14. **Date and Items for the next Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 23 November 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Parish Rooms, Rothbury**

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

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