WHALTON
PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Whalton Village Hall

(Draft minutes until signed)

26:67 Cllr's Present: Lennard (Chair), Grix (Vice Chair),Young,Walton

In attendance: M Burn (Parish Clerk) Cllr Lyle Darwin (NCC)
Members of the Public attending - none.

26:68 Apologies for absence received: Cllr S Trobe, Cllr D Storey.

26:69 Declaration of Interests, and grant of any dispensations: Clerk received declarations of interest from both Cllr Grix & Cllr Walton, WPC granted ongoing dispensation to both in the matter of land ownership relevant to the neighbourhood plan.

26:70 Public questions received in advance: None

26:71 Minutes of previous meeting: (Chair)
The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th July were agreed & signed by the Chair.

26:72 Matters Arising from the Minutes (unless separately on the agenda)

26.72.01 **Transport Issues**: Chair encouraged all to complete the NE Mayors office bus survey. Have your say on the future of our buses https://www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/consultations/haveyoursay.

26.72.03 **Local Plan**: WPC confirmed it will hold an open invitation event on Saturday 24th October from 10:30 - 12:30 in the Whalton village hall. Refreshments will be available and local planning issues will be presented to the public attending. Landowners within the parish will be invited to attend by recorded mail. A survey to establish the importance of issues will be held. The event will be shared with NCC Cllr Lyle Darwin, holding an open 'surgery' event. Local notice boards and online bulletins will promote the event.

Chair confirmed she had discussed the possible requirement for a housing needs assessment with MR V Walsh, rural housing enabler with Community Action Northumberland. The Chair understands funding is available and will update the council in Nov. WPC to seek advice from the Neighbourhood planning team at NCC. Update to follow.

The Clerk confirmed WPC has a dedicated email address for the public use regarding the Local Plan. Public questions or comments are welcome. *whaltonlocalplan@whaltonparishcouncil.gov.uk*.

26.72.04 **Speed indicator device (SID) Ogle village:** The Ogle pole installation is complete and the SID is in position. WPC thanked Cllr Grix and his team for arranging the transfer of the SID. Discussion took place regarding the assessment period, **resolved** to review the statistics in January 2027 (Clerk to action).

26:72.05 **Unity Trust Banking**. Secure email updates are now acknowledged by Unity Trust Bank. No further action.

26:73 Cllr Lyle Dawin (NCC)
26.74.01 Cllr Darwin confirmed his attendance on the 24th October with the WPC Local Plan meeting. Publicity for the event is now published.

26:74 Financial Matters: (Clerk)
26.74.01
Non routine / other payments made

Whalton Timber Products - Oak Posts	4,000GBP
NCC Ogle SID roadside post installed	555.50GBP

26.74.02 Anticipated invoices prior to next meeting in November

Chair allowance paid to Whalton show prizes	20.00GBP
Chair Allowance to Royal British Legion	80.00GBP
NALC Training course x2 (Clerk)	84.00GBP
Zurich Insurance (Parish Council) Annual	264.00GBP
Whalton T Products - Posts prep & installation	4,000GBP

26.74.03 Income anticipated before next meeting

Precept Payment (NCC) September	4,000GBP

26.74.04 Clerk informed the council no request to review WPC accounts was received. Public rights closed 14/07/2026.
26.74.05 Future Annual Governance Report to be online. WPC is now registered awaiting updates. Clerk to action.
26.74.06 Financial risk assessment reviewed to include Local Plan budget. **Resolved**

26.74.07 **Balances at date of the meeting**

Current Account Unity Trust Bank	6,712.99
Saving Account Unity Trust Bank	5,857.30
Total Balances to date of meeting	12,570.29

26:75 Correspondence (Clerk)
26.75.01 Routine newsletters were received & circulated to cllr's,public request for historical info at Whalton,NE Mayors office survey,rural housing service (CAN).
26.75.02 NCC annual town & parish council's conference 8th October.

26:76 Planning: To consider planning applications & notifications received.
26.76.01 None received at the date of the meeting.
26.76.02 Clerk confirmed the receipt of a NCC planning portal specimen document. The service provided by NCC is a 'paid for service'. Extensive discussion took place. WPC **resolved** not to purchase the service.

26:77 Dates Parish Council Meetings 2027
26.77.01 The council reviewed and agreed the following dates to be published online & local notice boards.
2027 January 6th / March 3rd / May 5th / July 7th / Sept 8th / Nov 3rd. Now confirmed with village hall.

26:78 Parish Council Website (Clerk)
26.78.01 Statistics
July 122 page views / August 87 page views (20% by mobile).Council **resolved** to continue to monitor the website statistics.

26:79 Training & Development
26.79.01 Discussion took place. Clerk to review budget in November.

26:80 Council Policy Review
26.80.01 Standing orders - Adopted
26.80.02 Code of Conduct - Adopted
26.80.03 Financial Risk - Adopted

26:81 Whalton Defibrillator Checks
26.81.01 Designated guardian is unavailable. The Clerk inspected the defib. Budget 27/28 to reflect maintenance issues.

26:82 Remembrance Day 8th Nov
26.82.01 Council resolved to donate the remaining Chair allowance to the Royal British Legion. Clerk to action.

26:83 AOB (Chair)
26.83.01 Council was in receipt of a small business concept directed to Whalton parish regarding provision of a food vending machine to be placed within Whalton. Discussion to place. WPC **resolved** to not pursue the concept.
26.86.02 Cllr Walton raised an issue of street parking and particular issues at the village school at Whalton. Extensive discussion took place.WPC resolved to explore the issue in relation to the development of the neighbourhood plan.

26:84 Date of next meeting(s): Wednesday 18th November 7:30pm meeting at front room, Whalton village hall. 26.84.02 Meeting closed at 8:40pm

Signed……..(Chairman) **Date**