

## **Whalton Parish Council (WPC)**

**Wednesday 19th November 2025 - Whalton Village Hall**

### **Open Parish Council Meeting**

(Draft minutes until signed)

**25:78 Cllr's Present:** Vice chair Martin Grix, Marlene Young, Chair Dr Anne Lennard, David Storey.

#### **In attendance:**

Malcolm Burn (Parish Clerk)  
Cllr Lyle Darwin (NCC)  
0 members of the public attended.

**25:79 Apologies for absence received:** Cllr S Trobe, Cllr Mitchinson resigned

**25:80 Declaration of Interests, and grant of any dispensations:** None

**25:81 Public questions:** None received

#### **25:82 Minutes of previous meeting:** (Chair)

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th September 2025 were signed by the Chair.

#### **25:83 Matters Arising from the Minutes (unless separately on the agenda)**

25.83.01 A parish council meeting has now been confirmed as **Wednesday 26th November** in the village hall. County council officer Rob Naples (Neighbourhood planning) will be attending. This is an additional council meeting for Local Plan business only. The meeting is open to the public. Start 19:30. Cllr Darwin responded to questions regarding neighbourhood plans.

25.83.02 The clerk confirmed completion of the asset register in accordance with the requirements of Zurich insurance Ltd. The clerk confirmed payment of invoice to Zurich 264GBP.

#### **25:84 NCC Cllr Lyle Darwin:**

25.84.01 Cllr Darwin confirmed an estimate of 200GBP was provided by NCC for the possible installation of a pole suitable for the portable speed indicator device. Discussion took place regarding an appropriate site for installation. WPC to collate information relating to speeding data obtained from road surveys and indicators. Clerk to contact Elan City for advice regarding data collection and to visit the site to download data.

25.84.02 Extensive discussion took place regarding the limited bus services for the parish. Chair explained the responses received to enquiries, including from the MP J Morris. Although no progress was reported, WPC will continue to press for a suitable bus service in and around the parish. Chair / Cllr Darwin to action.

25.84.04 Further discussion took place regarding posts & chains for Whalton village. Cllr Darwin is exploring funding, WPC to obtain an estimate. Cllr Grix to action.

**25:85 Financial Matters: (Clerk)**

25.85.01

Non routine / other payments made

Zurich Insurance	264.00
Reimbursement Cllr Lennard new Laptop	209.97
Information Commissioners register (data)	52.00

25.85.02 Invoices anticipated.

None	0
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25.85.03 The Clerk confirmed balances to the date of the meeting.

Current Account Unity Trust Bank	8,358.09
Saving Account Unity Trust Bank 2.25% instant access	3,786.52
Total Balances to date	<b>12,144.61</b>

25.85.04 Clerk confirmed Unity Trust Bank has reduced the interest rate on savings to 2.25%.

25.85.05 Budget review for financial year 26/27 was reported to WPC by the clerk. The clerk explained to all the precept payments made to WPC and any impact upon council taxes. Some items were discussed in detail and individual costs reviewed. **Council Resolved to leave the precept unchanged at 8K.** Clerk to action. WPC thanked Cllr Darwin for his continued support.

25.85.06 Discussion took place regarding grants made by the council with a view supporting future initiatives to younger people.

25.85.07 Discussion took place regarding the Cllr training budget. Cllr Young confirmed she was certified as a safeguarding officer & resolved to be considered safeguarding member for WPC.

### **25.86 Parish Joint Working Forum (Chair)**

25.86.01 Cllr Lennard was unable to attend this first meeting organised by Bywell PC. The concept of joint parish working was discussed. Items expressed by those attending included issues of communications with NCC officers and lack of response to enquiries. Cllr Lennard to maintain contact with the forum and explore possible positives for WPC. Chair to action.

### **25:87 Correspondence (Clerk)**

25.87.01 NCC are conducting a long term 'Governance review', a survey for WPC was completed and submitted by the clerk.

25.87.02 The annual pensions regulator submission was completed & submitted by the clerk.

25.87.03 Confirmation of a publicity flyer in relation to the local plan meeting posted by the clerk to parish notice boards & the website.

25.87.04 A bulletin from NCC regarding free trees was received from NCC. Brief discussion took place.

25.87.05 Discussion took place regarding a grant request from Blue Spirit (Younger persons charity). WPC resolved not to grant on this occasion. Clerk to action a response.

### **25:88 Planning: (Info items)**

25.88.01 Whiteside House planning application 25/02687/FUL - GRANTED

25.88.02 Whalton primary school 25/03423/FUL - GRANTED

25.88.03 Listed building consent courtyard walls 24/00117/FUL

25.88.04 West House Ogle extension to garage 25/02659/FUL - WITHDRAWN

### **25:89 Local Transport Planning (LTP) (All)**

25.89.01 Extensive discussion took place regarding the submissions for LTP consideration under the new 3 year scheme. No set objectives were identified. Cllrs agreed to defer this item.

### **25:90 Parish Wide Maintenance Schedule 25/26: (Discussion all)**

25.90.01 Council has previously agreed to explore requesting community volunteers to complete the work. Resolved to complete this task in spring of 2026.

25.90.02 Clerk confirmed no response was received from P Lowes (NCC) regarding the grass cutting contract. Discussion took place regarding communications with NCC. WPC anticipates the grass cutting early & late agreement to continue.

25.90.03 Cllr Grix confirmed the NCC gully pot cleaning team had visited the parish with a number of gullies now cleaned. However certain areas such as Meldon Rd and Ogle remain an issue. Cllr Grix to action & report to council.

**25:91 Council Website changeover & secure email (All)**

25.91.01 Clerk confirmed the new arrangements and costs with explanation documents provided. HugoFox provided an estimate of 199GBP for building the professional website to the requirements of WPC. Council **resolved** to accept.Clerk to action.

25.91.02 The clerk informed the council that secure email was offered from April 2026 and recommended all Cllrs to use this secure communication. WPC **resolved** to adopt .Gov email accounts 2026.Clerk to action required contracts.

**25:92 Date of next meeting(s): All meetings are open to the public**

**25.92.01 Wednesday November 26th Local Plan for Whalton Parish?**

The extra open meeting starts at 19:30. Attending NCC Neighbourhood planning officer Mr Rob Naples.

25.92.02 The clerk updated the council regarding future dates which replaced the date for March 2026 as advertised previously. All Wednesday evening at 7:30pm - unless stated.

**7th January 2026**

**4th March**

**6th May - 7pm parishioners meeting & 7:30pm annual parish council meeting**

**8th July**

**2nd September**

**18th November**

Dates to be published onto the WPC website - clerk to action.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm

**Signed**.....(Chairman)

**Date**.....

