

Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham Parish Council

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Whittingham Memorial Institute at 7pm on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

Present: Councillors I. Lepingwell (Chair during finance items); B. Wood (Chair during all other items) K. Armstrong; R. Bateson; C. Durie; Lord Ravensworth; K. Turvey; R. Thompson (Clerk).

Minutes

Subject to approval at the next meeting

1. Apologies: Councillor R. Gray.

2. Declaration of Members Interests (Only insofar as they affected items on the agenda). None.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2017, (previously circulated) were signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

- a. Members recorded their appreciation for the work carried out by Councillor K. Armstrong in co-ordinating nominations in the lead in to the election.
- b. Update on proposal to produce a new Parish Plan in conjunction with the Parochial Church Council. There was nothing to report since the last meeting.
- c. Transparency Code and new Parish Council website. The Clerk reported that the new Parish Council web site was now accessible at (<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/whittingham>) .Information about the Parish Council and the area generally will be built up over the following months. All minutes, agendas and financial information will be included with other Council documents.

5. New business

- a. Election update. It was noted that all nominees were returned as Councillors in an uncontested election. Details will be posted on line after 4th May when declarations of acceptance of office have been completed. The Clerk circulated copies of **Declarations of Interest** forms to all present (with an additional copy for Councillor R. Gray) for the new term of office. The forms and guidelines for completion had previously been circulated to all Members. It was stressed how important it was for these forms to be completed and returned to the Clerk who would then forward to County Hall. The deadline for these to be with County Council election staff is 7th June 2017.
- b. The Parish Council were provided with funding in 2011 for the maintenance of the defibrillator which is located at the Whittingham Memorial Institute. The battery, which is expected to last for 5 further years is a specialised unit costing £183. The Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Lepingwell ordered and replaced the battery which is a specialised unit supplied by 'Cardiac Science'. Members confirmed this action and agreed payment of their invoice.
- c. Section 53 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Definitive Map Modification order (No 11). Byways open to all traffic Nos 36 and 30 (Parishes of Ingram and Alnham). An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State has now confirmed the above Order. The map and further details were available at the meeting. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to enquire if restrictions could be placed on this byway during the lambing season.
- d. Training opportunities from NALC (Northumberland Association of Local Councils) for Councillors. The information was received.

6. Planning. No items to report.

Initial.....

7. Finance

- a. Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017. The information, together with the outturn for 2016-17 was received.
- b. (I Lepingwell in the Chair). Audit Return for the year ending 31 March 2017. Section 1 and Section 2 were approved in order and signed and dated by the Chairperson and Clerk.
- c. Appointment of Internal Auditor. It was agreed to ask John Rutherford to carry out an internal audit on the accounts prior to submitting the return to BDO Audit.

Parish Council Account

Brought forward from last meeting	6119.65
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Paid out since last meeting

828 Clerks wages (Mar)	113.21	
830 HMRC PAYE final Qtr.	84.80	
831 Administration expenses	12.99	
832 Grant to Vale News	450.00	5458.65

Paid in since last meeting

NCC precept. first instalment (paid in on 11 April)	2217.50
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Balance carried forward	7676.15
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Note – the above balance includes £1120 of grant which is ring fenced towards meeting the requirements of the new transparency code.

Parish Plan Account

No transactions this period.	1157.03
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Accounts for payment as of 18th April 2017

Clerks wages (Apr)	113.21
Cardiac Science Holding Ltd. (agreed under item 5b above)	183.00

8. Correspondence. (Not covered elsewhere on the agenda). The following information was circulated and received.

- a. To Forestry Commission. Concerns about Whittingham Wood with response from the Commission.

9. Other business.

Councillor Ravensworth expressed concern about the continued poor condition of the highways. Although some work had been carried out by widening 'passing places' on the Eslington road, these had not been completed with a bitmac surface. The Netherton to Whittingham road was still in poor condition, even though the developers at Biddlestone had made a 'planning gain' payment to the County Council for improvement works to be carried out on such local highways. Potholes continued to be a serious problem and some at Mile Moor could be dangerous for road users.

Date of next meeting: 16th May 2017. Please note this is the Annual General Meeting.

Richard Thompson
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Signed.....Date.....