

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th August 2017 at 7.30pm at the Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (Chair), Alan Winlow (Vice Chair), Katy Nickolls (Councillor) and Sarah Winlow (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES for absence: there were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on the 8th of June 2017 were considered and approved by all, and signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i. Highways and Footways: AW presented the Highways and Footways Report that covers issues with the Parish's highways, footpaths, verges, seats, road signs and drains. This report will be forward to the Road Dept at NCC. AW reported that he was considering inviting Graham Bucknall (NCC Roads Dept) to the next Cluster Group meeting to jointly present the Highways and Footways report as a model for other parishes to use. Discussion was had about the poor visibility on the right-hand turn towards Lordenshaws from the B6342 from a northerly direction (coming from Rothbury) and the need for signage to Lordenshaws at Tosson Glebe Farm. AW to raise these issues with the Area Highways Manager.

ii Vacancies on the Parish Council. There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Following the advice of NALC, and pending the process outlined in 4v) below, it was agreed to advertise these vacancies by asking for written expressions of interest to the Clerk.

iii. Broadband: After three years of pressuring BT for broadband, AW was pleased to report the cable has been connected and faster broadband is now available in the Parish. Residents need to contact their provider to upgrade to broadband.

iv. Website: the minutes of the meeting of the 8th of June will be posted on the website. Agreed to try to use the website more. The web address is www.northumberlandparishes.uk/whittonandtossion

4. MATTERS ARISING


i. Parish Council Policy Checklist: This was circulated and reviewed. All applicable policies are in place.

ii. Update from the Joint Burial Committee: It is probable that there is a covenant on the Cemetery Lodge so that it cannot be sold. All agreed that the Lodge should not be sold but kept, refurbished and rented out. Clerk to send confirmation of this decision to the Clerk of the JCB. Quotes are currently being sought for the renovation work. A 10-year plan for the cemetery, to include its extension, is being drawn up.

iii. Fire and Rescue Plan 2017 – 21: Consultation request from Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service. No response co-ordinated as consider this matter in hand by the Service.

iv. Local Transport Plan 2018-19 top 3 priorities: AW to respond to this.

v. Advice from NALC about Steven Bridgett's non-acceptance of office: As Steven Bridgett did not sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office within the required time period, NALC's Legal Department has advised there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. The standard Notice of Vacancy for a by-election will be made (whereby for a by-election to be held 10 electors must make such a request in writing within 14 days of the notice). If no request is forthcoming, the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.


Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

Dated..... 9/10/17.....

vi. Rothbury Hospital: noted consultation feedback was available from the Clinical Commissioning Group.

5. FINANCE

- i. Balance of Accounts: Community Account (£987.44) and Savings Account (£401.44).
- ii. Clerk's Honorarium: £60 – approved
- iii. Clerk's Expenses: £4.26 - approved
- iv. Hire of meeting room for Parish Council meeting: £12 – approved
- v. Audit of Annual Return: additional information has been requested by the auditors, specifically to amend the return with all the assets held by the Parish Council (i.e. the benches, the noticeboard). AW has drawn up a spreadsheet of assets that notes their condition and value. This information was used to update the audit and resubmit it. Unfortunately there will be a fee of £36 due to this omission. Discussion was had about sanding and re-varnishing the noticeboard. AW has agreed to do this.

6. PLANNING

- i. Application 16/04231/FLL for 11 Holiday Lodges on land S of Rothbury Golf Club: AW gave update on current situation. A site visit will be held for the Planning Committee on the 21st of August, with the application appearing before the new North Northumberland Local Area Committee on the 24th of August. AW and John Monaghan (resident) will attend the Committee meeting and speak in opposition to the development on behalf of the Parish Council. Community engagement to find alternative revenue streams for the Golf Club continues with the Club being provided with a list of options; this includes developing a pitch and putt facility, a multi-sport arena (for running, basketball, football etc) and improving facilities at the Club House.
- ii. Application 17/02669/LBC Alterations to Gardeners Cottage, Whitton Grange. Plans for alterations to windows in a former garage door were considered. The Parish Council is fully supportive of this application.
- iii. Whitton Dene holiday lets: Update from AW - Matthew Muckle intends to complete 1st phase by the end of the year, with 2nd phase next year. Two holiday lets will be available in 2018.

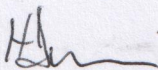
7. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Email from Jenny Stanbridge (formerly of Carterside): Clerk to respond addressing her queries.
- ii. Annual Town and Parish Council Conference on 5th October: noted.
- iii. Terms of Reference for Local Councils and Who's who in NCC documents: noted.
- iv. Planning training session on the 24th August: noted.
- v. Community-led Housing Survey: HD has completed this.
- vi. Green Dog Walkers campaign: noted.
- vii. Thanks received from the Mountain Rescue Service for donation of £50: noted.

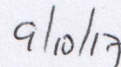
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND PROVISIONAL DATES FOR MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2017

- i. There was no AOB
- ii. Next Parish Council meetings:
7.30pm, 9th October 2017 – Parish Hall, Rothbury
7.30pm, 7th December 2017 – Parish Hall, Rothbury

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.



Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)



Dated.....