

WHALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 November 2017

in The Village Hall, Whalton

Present:

Councillors Mrs V Cassell, W Grix, Mrs S Richardson (Chairman in the chair) and S Trobe

Also present:

SE Rickitt – Clerk.

One Member of the Public

NB: In these minutes NCC means Northumberland County Council

1: Public Participation

1.1 The parishioner suggested the provision of a waste bin at Lynn Law to encourage deposit of dog waste. [See also item 4.2. below]

1.2 Councillors thought this was a very sensible suggestion; indeed a second at the eastern end of the village would serve the same purpose as well. The clerk was asked to investigate prices and circulate details to Councillors ahead of a potential decision at the next meeting. **Action SER**

1.3 The clerk was also asked to find out more information regarding NCC's Green Dog Walker Scheme. **Action SER**

2: Apologies for absence and grants of dispensations

2.1 Apologies were noted from Parish Councillor Mrs J Rushmer and County Councillor Mrs E Armstrong

3: Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017

The minutes of the previous Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman

4: Any matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

4.1 Electricity Poles - The clerk will again chase up Northern Powergrid regarding the inspection the poles in the village. **Action SER**

4.2 Permissive footpath at Kiplaw - The clerk informed Councillors that his enquiries of the County Council had shown that there had been an application to place the path on the *Definitive Map and Statement* but this had been refused at a hearing in 1957. Subsequently; the landowner had lodged formal notices under section 31 (6) Highways Act 1980 thereby

stopping the ability for the public to gain footpath rights in the 1990s. In response to a comment that work had been carried out by a district council employee to keep the path available, the clerk advised that this would not have been a formal act by the local highway authority.

4.3 A photograph copy of the signs recently erected was circulated. Councillors considered these to be within the landowner's rights. [A copy of the photograph is attached to the signed minutes] [*See also item 1 above*]

4.4 Acquisition of a defibrillator for the Village – Councillor Trobe updated the Council and advised that, after seeking quotations from a number of suppliers, he recommended the purchase of one from WEL Medical Ltd for a price of £1639.50 including VAT. There would also be the charges for an electrician to install the defibrillator in the telephone kiosk once BT's consent had been obtained.

4.5 The Council accepted this recommendation and noted that the Village Show Committee had offered to pay a donation to the Council to assist in the purchase.

4.6 The Council authorised Councillor Trobe and the clerk to proceed with the acquisition and installation of a defibrillator. **Action ST & SER**

4.7 Co-option to the existing Vacancy - The Council was advised that notices seeking candidates had been placed on the noticeboards and on the website with a closing date of 5.00 pm 31 December 2017.

5: Police and County Council reports

No reports were to hand.

6: Planning

6.1 The Council considered the following applications all relating to Moore House, Whalton

- 17/03595/TREECA – felling three leylandii
- 17/03976/FUL – removal of outbuildings and replacement with further recreation provision
- 17/3977/FUL – removal of existing garage complex and replacement with new to include storage area for biomass heating system
- 17/03974/FUL – replacement of conservatory and replacement with garden room

Whilst Councillors had no objections to the above, they asked that the following comments be sent to the local planning authority

- The use of extensive plate glass windows to the rear would be a danger to birds and a georgian glazed style would mitigate this as well as being more in keeping with the property
- Some of the plans submitted in support of the application show the curtilage extending north beyond the village boundary and thus into the Green Belt. Any permissions should ensure that they do not inadvertently allow an encroachment into the Green Belt
- With Moore House and the amended plan for the wall to be extended further east, could the planning officer check it will not have an adverse effect on the listed neighbouring property - 3 The Terrace-

The Council considered application 17/04008/PRUTPO - Glebe Cottage, Whalton – pruning a beech tree – and resolved to raise no objections.

Application 17/03856/FUL - Manor Cottage– replacement of front windows was also considered. The Council considered the windows should be wooden as per the existing windows.

6.2 Application 17/02148/FUL (19 houses south of Manor Close) – The Chairman advised the Council that amended plans were anticipated. The Council considered that even if those showed a decrease in the number of units, they would still object for the reasons set out in the meeting held on 18 July 2017.

6.3 The clerk will remind the conservation team at NCC that the Article 4 leaflet is still awaited. **Action SER**

6.4 The Council noted the recent statement by the DCLG regarding possible intervention in the production of Northumberland’s Local Plan.

7: The Closure of the Beresford Arms

Mr Wilkes had provided Councillors with a copy of the letter he had recently distributed around the village. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]. Councillors were pleased to note that there were now grounds for optimism that the pub would reopen.

8: Traffic and Highway Issues

8.1 Councillor Mrs Cassell reported the highway signs in Ogle were still very dirty and she will ask the Parish Caretaker to clean them. **Action VC**

8.2 Councillor Mrs Cassell also reported that the signs on the Byway were not being replaced as NCC Highway’s Dept. had received a complaint that they were unlawful. The clerk will carry out some research and write appropriately to NCC. **Action SER**

8.3 The Council were concerned that the plate over the quicksand at the ford on the Ogle Byway had shifted but NCC regarded realignment as a low priority. The clerk will write to NCC to express concern at this stance.

Action SER

8.4 The Council discussed the current state of Shilvington Road and did not think it merited a request for a site visit with NCC Highways Dept.

8.5 The Chairman reported the NALC initiative with NCC regarding the possible procurement and maintenance of speed indicator signs within the County, costs being carried by Parish Councils. The Council noted that the current signs were not the subject of a maintenance agreement and were probably at the end of their expected life. The Council agreed to express an interest in the scheme, without making any commitment at the present time. **Action SER**

8.6 Councillors discussed speeding and parking within Whalton, causing access difficulties and problems at junctions. There were no easy solutions but the clerk was asked to request NCC to replace the 30 mph roundels and red lines on the road covered up when the road was resurfaced. **Action SER**

9: Environmental Issues and Parish Caretaker

9.1 It was agreed to request NCC's Tree Officer for advice on the Millennium Oak Tree opposite the school as its shape was causing concern.

9.2 Councillor Mrs Cassell had observed NCC staff weed spraying around the signs in Whalton despite the agreement that the Parish Council would carry out this work within the parish. The clerk will remind NCC that Ogle is part of the parish. **Action SER**

9.3 Councillor Trobe reported accumulations of water on the C359 (Gowk Lonnen) and asked the clerk to report this to NCC. **Action SER**

10: Financial Matters

10.1 The Council noted the current accounts for 2017/2018 (A copy is attached to the signed minutes).

10.2 The Council approved the following payments, all to be made via BACS

- Gavin Christie – Parish Caretaker - £216.00
- Great North Air Ambulance – Grant £500.00
- HMRC- PAYE Q3 - £84.00

10.3 The Council noted the successful application to the Transparency Fund and authorised the clerk to obtain a laptop and software. **Action SER**

10.4 The Council indicated they were minded to provide the village hall and the church (for graveyard maintenance) with grants of up to £1000 each if a written request was made.

10.5 The Council considered the budget and precept report of the clerk, updated to note that the likely fee for registration as a *Data Controller* was £55.00. The clerk explained the issues arising from the General Data Protection Regulations 2016 and the national and local efforts to ensure proportionate application to Councils such as Whalton. [A copy of the report is attached to the signed minutes]

10.5 The Council agreed the following budget for 2018/2019

Budget Heads and Number	Budget for 2018/2019
Clerks Costs – Salary & PAYE (1)	1680.00
Misc. Admin (Postage, etc.) (2)	200.00
Insurance (3)	450.00
Legal/Audit/Subscriptions (4)	335.00
Support Payments (5)	5000.00
Hall Hire (6)	100.00
Maintenance (7)	250.00
Parish Caretaker (8)	1500.00
Environmental Work (<i>prev. Projects</i>) (9)	3000.00
Contingencies/Elections (10)	600.00
Total	13115.00
Precept	7500.00
Surplus / (Balance from Reserves)	(5615.00)

10.6 The Council then resolved to levy a precept in 2018/2019 of £7500.00 [Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pounds]

11: Correspondence

The clerk reported on various items of correspondence.

12: Any other business

None

13: Time and date of next scheduled meetings

It was agreed to cancel the December meeting unless there was a matter of urgency. The next meetings were therefore scheduled as

- Tuesday 16 January 2018
- Tuesday 20 February 2018
- Tuesday 20 March 2018
- Tuesday 17 April 2018
- Tuesday 15 May 2018 – This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting. The Council will start on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

..... Date