

**Meeting of Plenmeller with Whitfield Parish Council held at Whitfield on Monday 12th
February 2018**

Present

J H Blackett-Ord
Mrs J Cousin
Mrs A Johnston
Mr J Johnston
Mrs O Norris
Mrs M Sowler
Ms A Dale

Apologies for absence

None

In Attendance

Miss J Johnston (clerk)
I Hutchinson (County Councillor)

Declarations of Interest

J H Blackett-Ord (Whitfield Estate)
I Hutchinson (Planning)

Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed. Prop Cllr Mrs A Johnston,
Second Cllr Mrs Norris

Matters arising

The clerk circulated a draft letter to H&DJBC written by the chairman before the meeting. After some discussion it was Proposed by Cllr Mrs Cousin and Seconded by Cllr Mr J Johnston that the letter be sent to the Town Clerk

The Clerk confirmed that the planning permission for the new telephone mast at the Laws had been approved.

The Clerk reported that she had decided to wait to write to BDO until the time came to submit the current years accounts.

The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed the tenant in Plenmeller suggesting she write to County Hall about a potential 30mph speed limit through the village.

Councillor Mrs Johnston said that the footpaths had still not been swept. Councillor Hutchinson said that he had looked into this and the sweeper had spent a lot of time off the road being repaired but he had pointed out that when running it spent more time in Hexham than in surrounding areas and he had been told that efforts would be made to redress the balance.

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The Chairman asked about the replacement waste bin for the village. Councillor Hutchinson said that small bins of that type were no longer being used but the Parish Council could purchase a wheelie bin for around £100 which would be emptied by the binmen on their rounds. There was much discussion about where a bin of this size could be located. Councillor Mrs Johnston said she would speak to Janet Marriott who runs the shop and ask her for her feelings about this.

It was reported that the potholes on the Unthank road had not been repaired.

Councillor Mr J Johnston reported that the poster he had displayed in the Plenmeller notice board had been removed, he said it was not the first time this had happened.

Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the Planning Permission and listed building consent applications for West Unthank Farm which the Council had previously discussed and approved of had been withdrawn and revised applications submitted. At this point the Chairman declared an interest and the Vice Chair took over the meeting. The Clerk said that the Chairman had been approached to see if the Parish Council would consider sending a letter of support to the Planning dept. She said that she had prepared a draft in advance of the meeting, as the deadline for comments was very close. The letter was read out and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Cousin and seconded by Councillor Ms Dale and agreed unanimously that the letter be sent in support of both applications.

The Clerk said that she had received the new invoices for the H&DJBC and a letter confirming an increase of 20%. This was partly due to the need to replace machinery, but looking at the budget for the year it was noted that wages were estimated to exceed probable income by a significant margin

Accounts for payment

Clerks wages	£129.98
HMRC-PAYE	£32.40
G Burgon	£40.00 (strimming verges at Plenmeller)

Any Other Business

Councillor Mrs Johnston asked Councillor Hutchinson if he could look into the case of a Whitfield resident who, after a fall at her home was taken to Cramlington hospital and expected to find her home way home after treatment despite Hexham hospital having its 24 hour status reinstated with much publicity. The resident had asked to be taken to Hexham but was told she must go to Cramlington. Councillor Hutchinson said he would bring this to the attention of the local MP and see what could be done, as there were concerns that the Hexham department might be closed if no patients were ever taken there.

Councillor Mrs Johnston also reported that although many of the potholes and surfacing work had been done on the school road, water was running all over the road and new potholes were forming – one of them was very large near a blind corner and posed a danger as cars pulled into the middle of the road to avoid it. The Chairman also reported a blocked drain opposite Holy Trinity Church, and asked if there was no maintenance plan in place as clearing blocked drains would prevent a lot of potholes appearing.

The clerk reported that water was still running down the road from Bardon Mill road and Haining Hall and had washed out all of last years pothole repairs. This problem was considered to be due to blocked drains.

Councillor Mrs Johnston also mentioned that there was a problem on the road in Whitfield with a blocked drain causing a flood on the road when it rained.

Next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next meeting was fixed for Monday 21st May at Whitfield to follow the AGM

Johnston - DJ
2015/18.