

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2017 at 7.30pm at the Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (Chair), Alan Winlow (Vice Chair), Katy Nickolls (Councillor) and Sarah Winlow (Clerk). Also in attendance: Katie Scott and John Deverlin.

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

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on the 9th of October 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.

Defects reported include one pothole at the post box above Cornhill and damage to the highway at Little Tosson. Holes at the side of the road at Tosson Glebe, the entrance to the limekiln car park, near the seat at Lordenshaws and the Carterside passing places have been filled by the Parish Council. The farmer has cut back vegetation from the dangerous corner on the Rothbury to Hexham road at the right-hand turn to Lordenshaws. Problems with flooding on numerous footpaths reported. AW noted that he has compiled the report for over a year now. The system is working well as small problems can be addressed before they develop into larger issues. Clerk to upload the Highways and Footpaths report to the PC website.

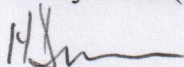
ii. Vacancies on the Parish Council: There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Val Burwood (resident in Whitton) had agreed to be co-opted from March 2018. The remaining vacancy will be discussed at the meeting in March.

4. MATTERS ARISING

i. Rothbury Community Hospital: Katie Scott of Save Rothbury Community Hospital presented the campaign to date. In September 2016 the Clinical Commission Group (CCG) closed the ward without notice. The SRCH campaign was set up immediately with a petition calling for this decision to be reversed collecting over 5000 signatures. Between January and April 2017, the CCG ran a consultation on the future of the ward. SRCH produced a document in response, however the consultation resulted in the selection of the CCG's preferred option (i.e. the permanent closure of the ward). The SRCH presented an alternative entitled 'Coquetdale Cares' and have documented the failings of the consultation process. The CCG met on the 27th of September and confirmed decision to close the ward due to lack of funds / that its operation takes too much of the budget for Northumberland. The NCC Scrutiny Committee reviewed the decision on the 27th of October and found it to be incorrect. The Scrutiny Committee have prepared a document for Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to make a decision. The IRP may decide to make a full review and this would include a visit to Coquetdale in early 2018. WTPC thanked Katie and members of the campaign for all their hard work and agreed to continue to support the campaign. SRCH are aiming to collect statistical data on the use of the hospital. A call for contributions will be circulated to those residents on the Whitton and Tosson email list.

ii. Joint Burial Committee: Renovation of the Cemetery Lodge continues. The Lodge has failed gas and electricity safety tests and so additional work will be required to address this. The Lodge should be fit for habitation from April 2018. The income from the Lodge will help fund the running of the cemetery, outlays for which are being identified in the 10-year plan. Vincent Milburn is making enquiries as to whether some items identified in the plan (tree work, new paths) can be funded by the

Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)



Dated... 23/4/18...

Wingates Wind Farm fund. The Cemetery Superintendent's post has been reviewed with the result that a part-time post will be created to assist the Superintendent during busy months of the year. The Cemetery Superintendent's salary has also been reviewed and increased, bringing it in to line with the pay scales used by NCC for similar roles.

iii. Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan: Notification has been received from Rothbury, Cartington and Thropton Parish Councils that they wish to abandon work on the Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan following the shelving of the county-wide draft Local Development Plan by the new administration at Northumberland County Council. WTPC all agreed with this course of action and the Clerk will send confirmation of this decision to Rothbury, Cartington and Thropton PCs. Work already invested in the Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan can be picked up at a later date.

5. FINANCE

i. Parish Precept 2018-2019: £1500 has been requested. This represents the same amount as in 2017-2018. HD raised the issue of cost of a contested by-election and whether the Parish would have enough in the Savings Account to cover this eventuality. The Clerk will seek advice on the estimated cost of a by-election from the Election Officer.

ii. Appointment of external auditors 2017/2018: PKF Littlejohn LLP have been appointed as external auditors by the Small Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd. Councillors confirmed there were no potential conflicts of interest with this appointment.

iii. Balance of Accounts: Community Account (£1542.02) and Savings Account (£401.44).

iv. Clerk's Honorarium: £60 – approved

v. Clerk's Expenses: £8.22 – approved

vi. Hire of meeting room for Parish Council meeting: £12 – approved

vii. Donation to the Great North Air Ambulance: £100 – approved

viii. Request for funding for the Northumberland Theatre Company – declined

xi. Request for funding from Community Action Northumberland – declined

6. PLANNING

i. 17/04229/FUL New conservatory at Ryehill. Agreed to a conservatory in this location however concerns raised over the suburban style and the materials (UPVC) to be used. Clerk to lodge objection with NCC. *Subsequent to the meeting the application was passed by NCC.*

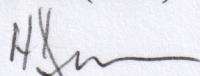
ii. Update on 17/03704/FLL 5 holiday units on land SW of Carterside. WTPC supported this application as a well-designed use of redundant space within the existing envelope of Carterside Farm. The planning case officer considered the proposal should be refused as represents 'development in the open countryside'. Given WTPC's support of the proposal, the case was referred to the North Northumberland Local Area Council. AW to speak in support of the application at NNLAC on the 21st December. *The NNLAC refused the application.*

iii. Update on 17/03343/FLL for new house at East Newtown Stackyard. Peter Henry has withdrawn his application whilst he addresses the planning case officer's concerns including that this proposal represents 'development in the open countryside' and is not serviced by a bus route!

iv. Update on sale of land with planning permission for 4 holiday cottages at Carterside. The 'For Sale' sign has blown away and has not been replaced. The time period for the acceptance of the £130,000 offer has lapsed, and the site has not been auctioned.

v. NPA New Local Plan – Consultation on the Local Plan Option Paper - noted

Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)



Dated... 23/4/19

vi. 17/04302/LBC Remedial works to the Rectory, Whitton. WTPC are fully supportive of this restorative scheme. Note of support to be sent to NCC.

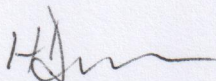
7. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Notification of Hospice Care 'Light up a life' campaign - noted
- ii. Pharmacy Needs Assessment Consultation – deadline 29th of January. KN to complete. All considered current level of service operates very well.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

- i. Transparency Fund: The Clerk has submitted an application for the grant available from central government for a laptop, up-to-date software and a scanner to assist parish council business.
- ii. Next Parish Council meeting: 7.30pm, Monday 5th March 2018 – Parish Hall, Rothbury.

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



Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

23/4/18

Dated.....