

**Minutes of a meeting of Plenmeller with Whitfield Parish Council held at
Whitfield on Monday 21st May 2018 a 7.30pm.**

Present

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

In attendance

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

Election of Officers

The clerk asked for nominations for the position of chairman. Cllr Mrs Johnston nominated Cllr Blackett-Ord. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Sowler and carried. The chairman then asked for nominations for the position of vice-chairman. Cllr Mrs Cousin proposed Cllr Mrs Johnston seconded by Cllr Mrs Norris and carried.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Blackett-Ord declared an interest in Whitfield Estate and planning at Plenmeller.

Matters arising

The clerk said that she had received a letter from Karen Little at H&DJBC in reply to our letter sent to Haltwhistle Town Clerk. Karen Little has said that they are prepared to reduce our annual precept to them by 25% if all member Councils agree. Members of the Council were all happy to agree to this.

Cllr Mrs Johnston said that whilst the footpaths on one side of the road had been swept nothing had been done to the footpath on the other side. Cllr Hutchinson said he would get this sorted.

Cllr Mrs Johnston reported that she had spoken to Janet Marriott in the village shop about a replacement bin. Mrs Marriott said she was quite happy with the one she had and that she would fasten the door up with string.

It was reported that about 1/3rd of the potholes at Plenmeller had been repaired but not the rest. Some of the potholes in Whitfield had been repaired but not others. Dodd Bank road had not yet been repaired and was in a desperate state. The drain at Plenmeller had still not been repaired.

It was reported that the amended planning permission for West Unthank Farm had been approved.

Risk and Audit Assessments

The risk and audit assessments were discussed. There were no changes to either of the assessments, but it was felt that as the clerk had resigned her position now would be a good time to find a new Internal Auditor. Mrs Rutherford who had done the job for several years had said that once the current clerk left she would rather not continue.

Data Protection Act

The clerk produced a large amount of paperwork regarding the DPA which was very hard to understand as it was not written in an easy to understand way. A good deal of discussion then ensued and the clerk said that for the next meeting she would produce an audit for Councillors to review.

Correspondence

The clerk had received a letter from H&DJBC explaining that as yet they were unable to go ahead with Haltwhistle becoming the Host Council as Melkridge had objected. In order to proceed there must be a 100% agreement. H&DJBC had written to NCC asking them if they would amend the legislation so that the matter could proceed.

Accounts for Payment

H& DJBC half yearly precept	£661.19
BHIB Ltd – Insurance	£328.44
J Johnston clerk wages/expenses	£204.58
HMRC – PAYE	41.60

Any Other Business

Cllr Blackett-Ord reported that the safety barrier on the Hall Bank had not been repaired. He also reported that the river bank between the Allendale road end and Whitfield Church was very close to the road. He also asked Cllr Hutchinson what was happening about the 20mph signs for Whitfield School as they had been asking for an update. Cllr Hutchinson said he would look into all three concerns. Cllr Mrs Johnston reported that the Notice Board at Plenmeller was in a dreadful state and was badly in need of repair. She also re-mentioned the potholes at Dodd Bank.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting was fixed for 20th August at 7.30pm at Plenmeller by kind permission of Cllr Mrs Sowler.