

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF WHITTON AND TOSSON

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on the 7th May 2019 at 6pm at the Parish Rooms, Rothbury

Present: Hilary Dunn (Chair), Alan Winlow (Vice Chair), Peter Henry (Councillor), Val Burwood (Councillor), Fran Tait (Councillor) and Sarah Winlow (Clerk).
Also present: Tom Burwood and Alan Tait

1. APOLOGIES for absence There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on the 5th of February 2019 were considered. AW proposed that the minute was a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by FT. The minute was signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

i. Highways and Footways: AW circulated and ran through the Highways and Footpaths report for NCC Highways and Technical Maintenance. He and VB had recently met with Graham Bucknell (GB), NCC Highways and Technical Maintenance to discuss the frequent diversion of traffic by Silverton Lane and the rough road surfaces at Tosson Glebe and Whitton Glebe, as well as at the top of Cemetery Brae. VB very concerned about the increased use of Silverton Lane. It has no passing places and the grass verges are likely to be wrecked. Requested that the diversion signage should include detail that this is a single-track road with no passing places. GB responded that the PC should request passing places to be constructed using the next round of funding from the Local Transport Plan. Unfortunately, GB could only advise that HGVs do not use the road during the diversions. AW will to make the submission when the forms are available in June / July.

AW raised issue of salt dumped and not used on verge at the road to the Forestry Commission carpark. HD stated that this had been arranged by County Cllr Bridgett to ensure access to the carpark and that the dumping of salt piles was a practical way without NCC having to install a yellow salt bin. As the salt has not been used, AW to follow this up with GB. A question was raised as to whether AW had had any success with following up James Stoker's request for more information on signage for road closures (see 7ii of minute of 5th February). AW has followed this up with GB who agreed it was a good idea but it not straight forward as a different section of NCC is responsible for signage. AW will persist in raising this issue.

AW and Jane Cheadle (resident) have planted a stand of birch trees on the approach to Newtown on Carterside Road.

AW continues to log the amount of litter in the Simonside carpark whilst litter picking from the roads and carparks in the Parish.

AW has been in discussion with Glen Sanderson (NCC) with regard to possibility that Parish Council will be paid for ongoing highway and footpath maintenance. Glen is to promote WTPC as a case study to NCC Director of Local Services.

HD thanks AW for his ongoing work to maintain the Parish's highways and footpaths. *A copy of the Highways and Footpaths report can be found on the [WTPC website](#).*

4. MATTERS ARISING

i. Joint Burial Committee: HD provided figures on interments. The JBC will begin to prepare the new extension area for the cemetery to expand into in the next three years. A second phase of tree works is about to begin.

Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

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ii. Cluster Group Update: AW circulated his notes from the last Cluster Group meeting. A new regime for pothole repair is being trialled by NCC with the rough areas to be cut away and filled, rather than piecemeal filling of potholes. More funding will be available for the repair of class B and C roads than previously. County Cllr Steven Bridgett is concerned about the reduction in the requirement for affordable housing in Rothbury in the draft Northumberland Plan. The draft plan requires 15% of homes built to be affordable in comparison to the withdrawn plan that required 25%. Cllr Bridgett is in discussion with Northumberland Estates for the purchase of land for social housing. There has been a change in the police staffing – Mick Astley is to appoint a new officer soon. *HD to circulate police newsletter / crime update to all other councillors.*

iii. State of 'Charlie's Potato Patch' and the former Willow Plot, Whitton

The paddock area known as 'Charlie's Potato Patch', previously tenanted by John Foggin and the Northumbria Basketry Group's former willow patch are in a dismal and neglected state. Denise Sealey, owner of both smallholdings, indicated that following the end of the above tenancies over two years ago, grant would be applied for the creation of a wildflower meadow. Charlie's Potato Patch is currently being used as a builders' yard and wood store. Residents are concerned about the dumping of rubble and other construction materials. The former willow plot has become overgrown with tall weeds. Both areas are unsightly and detract from the Whitton Conservation Area. Cllr Burwood suggested the Parish Council could write to Denise Sealey drawing her attention to the misuse of Charlie's Potato Patch and to the poor state of both plots of land.

VB to draft letter and circulate for comment.

5. FINANCE

i. Appointment of internal auditor: All agreed Judith Richardson be approached to act as internal auditor.

ii. Audit for 2018/2019: HD has prepared the balance sheet. The audit requires to be completed by the 1st of July and a meeting will be held at the end of June to sign off the accounts for 2018/2019, following review by Judith Richardson.

iii. Balance of accounts: Community Account **£1753.51** and Savers Account **£1201.98** (as of 28th February 2019). *SW to investigate possibility of viewing accounts online so an accurate balance can be provided without HD, AW or PH (signatories) having to physically go into a Barclays branch.*

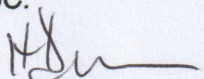
iv. Hire of meeting room £12: Approved

v. Clerk's honorarium £60: Approved

vi. Clerk's expenses – black ink £15: Approved

vii. NALC Affiliation and annual website fee £147.35: Approved

viii. Payment to the Joint Burial Committee: As per 4i of the minutes of the 27th November 2018 and 4i of the minutes of the 5th of February 2019, following a change in NCC procedure, the precept request included the sum (£3642.74) for the cemetery precept. As the precept is paid in two tranches, half of the amount for the cemetery precept has been received. *HD and AW to action the payment of half of sum to JBC.*


Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

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ix. Transfer of funds to the Savers Account: Cllrs all agreed it would be prudent to transfer £200 from the Community Account to the Savers Account in case of a contested election. A further £200 will be transferred when the second tranche of the precept is received.

SW to draft letter for HD / AW to action

6. PLANNING

i. Northumberland Local Plan consultation: Noted that the deadline for submission of comments for the Local Plan had passed.

ii. Mid-Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan: A request from Rothbury Parish Council has been received as to whether WTPC would like to see work on the Mid-Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan restarted. The Plan was mothballed in mid-2017 following the Conservative victory in the local government elections in May 2017 and the new council withdrawing the draft Northumberland Plan. Cllrs all supportive of the Neighbourhood Plan in principle however concerns were expressed by AW, HD and VB as to how the Neighbourhood Plan would be achieved. All agreed such a plan needs to be resourced with skilled people with the ability to drive it forward to avoid wasting a lot of time, as happened previously. *SW to contact Claire Miller for more information.*

iii. 19/00264/LBC Remedial works including recovering of porch roof, replacement of metal casements with timber casements, enlarging 4 windows to become 2 and reconfiguration of 'north off-shoot' to accommodate a living room, small kitchen and en-suite – GRANTED

iv. 19/01344/VARYCO Coquetdale Caravan Park: alterations to allow reorganisation of site boundary and reduction in density of pitches near Sharps Folly. Following discussion of proposals, all Cllrs agreed that this proposal is harmful to setting of Sharps Folly and the Whitton Conservation Area. All agreed it would be appropriate to OBJECT to the proposal. *VB to draft objection and circulate for comment.*

7. CORRESPONDENCE

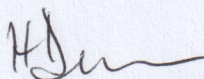
i. Letter of thanks received from CADS for support of pantomime: noted

ii. Notification of Healthwatch Northumberland Annual Survey: noted

iii. Email notification from Northumbria Water re works at Whitton: Northumbria Water are to construct a new pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer for Whitton. VB noted this was needed. The works are likely to take place towards the end of 2019.

iv. Enquiry from David Thorne of Wagtail Road, Rothbury re any vacancy: Noted with interest. *SW to invite David to next meeting.*

v. Notification about Northumberland Day on the 26th May - noted



Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

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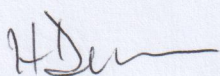
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tom Burwood noted Rothbury Past and Present Facebook page has reported thieves operating in the area. AW suggested the police be invited to a future meeting.

Date of next meeting: 18th of June, 2019.

All meetings to be held at the Parish Hall, Rothbury.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7pm.



Signed – Hilary Dunn (Chair)

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